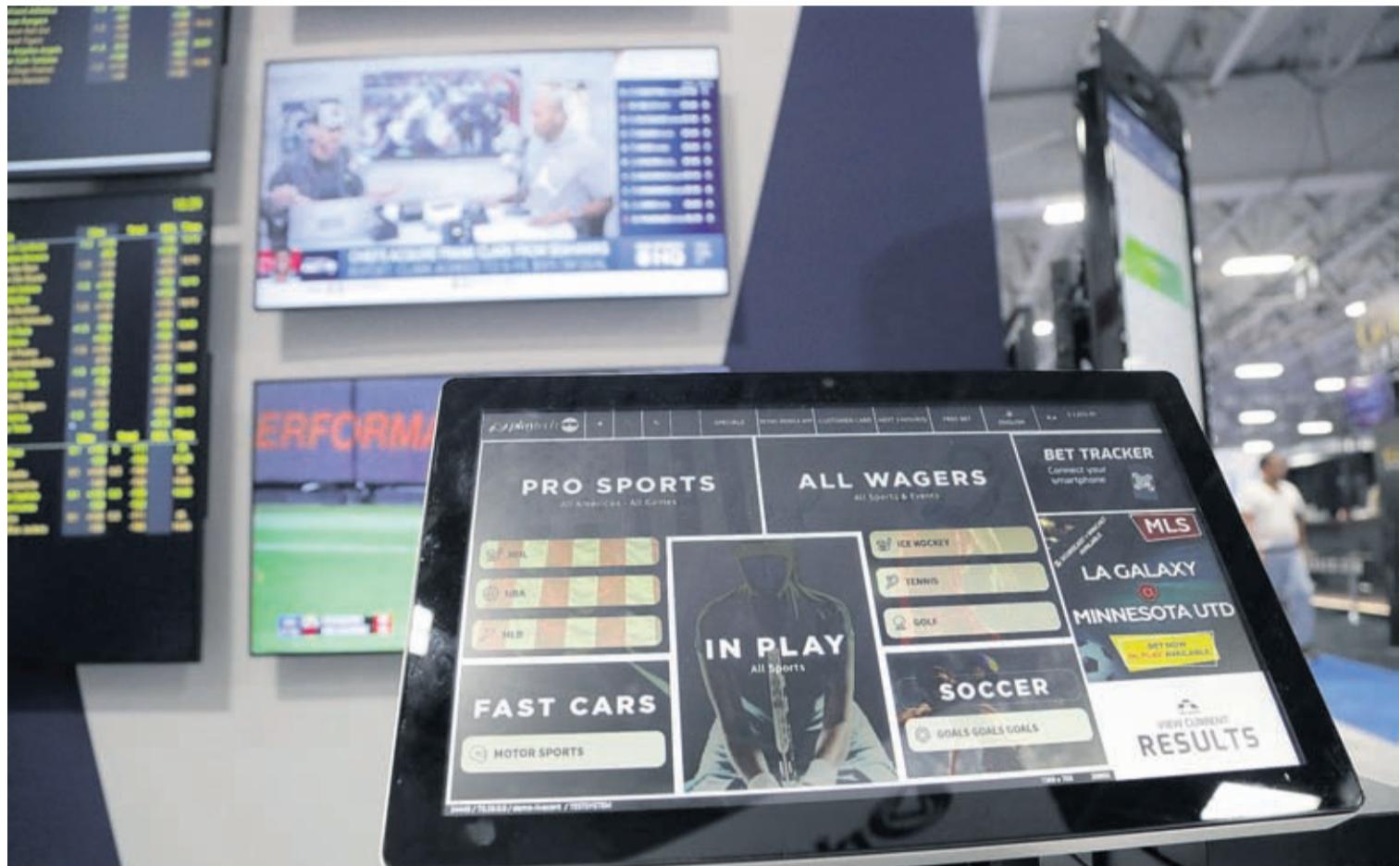




States' push to legalize sports betting differs by region

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (AP) — In the year since the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for every state to legalize sports betting, a regional divide has opened as states decide whether to expand their gambling options. By year's end, legalization is possible in a dozen states in the Northeast and Midwest. But most states in the Deep South and far West — SEC and Pac-12 territory in college sports — are staying on the sidelines, at least for now. State lawmakers are weighing the benefits of a slight boost in state revenue and the ability to add consumer protections against concerns about the morality of allowing another form of gambling. Sorting out complex business interests and opposition from some casino-operating tribes also has emerged as thorny challenges.

Continued on Next Page



In this April 24, 2019, file photo, a monitor shows a Playtech bet tracker during the Betting On Sports America conference in Secaucus, N.J. The spread of legalized sports betting is largely following regional boundaries.

Associated Press



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In this March 21, 2019, file photo, gamblers line up to place bets on the NCAA men's college basketball tournament at the Borgata casino in Atlantic City N.J.

SPORTS BETTING

Continued from Front

It's not clear whether legalization will happen in all corners of the country over the next few years or if opposition will keep it concentrated in the regions where it's already taken root.

With just two exceptions, the Deep South states have been among the most resistant to legalizing sports betting. In Louisiana, a legalization bill passed the Senate earlier this year but died in the House.

Republican state Sen. Danny Martiny favors legalization, saying Louisianans already are betting on sports through bookies, offshore websites and casinos in neighboring Mississippi. He said Louisiana should regulate and tax sport bets, with the receipts largely earmarked for early childhood education.

"We have all of the ills of gaming," Martiny said during a committee hearing, "but none of the benefits." Opponents such as Rep. Valarie Hodges, also a Republican, said gambling preys on the poor and that the state should find a bet-

ter way to pay for early education.

"What we legalize, we legitimize," she said.

Hodges' side prevailed in the legislative debate, aided by a dispute among gambling interests over whether sports betting should be limited to the state's 16 casinos and four racetracks or also available at 2,800 truck stops and other locations with video poker terminals.

Before the May 2018 Supreme Court ruling that allowed sportsbooks across the country, full-service ones were running legally only in Nevada. Last year, they opened in seven more states. So far this year, sports books have been legalized but haven't yet begun operating in another five, plus the District of Columbia.

Bills are awaiting signatures from the governors in Illinois, Maine and New Hampshire. Colorado voters will decide the matter for that state in November. In Oregon, the state lottery is working on regulations with the plan of launching sports betting under existing law in time for the start

of the NFL season.

Four more states are considering legalization during their current legislative sessions, but most legislatures have wrapped up their work for the year. Lawmakers in 18 states rejected sports betting legalization bills for 2019, according to a tally of legislation by The Associated Press.

There are several other states where lawmakers might have an appetite for legalization, but there isn't agreement in the complicated and tightly regulated gambling industry on how or whether to do it.

A common factor in those places, including California and Florida, is the prevalence of casinos operated by Native American tribes. Agreeing to allow sports betting might mean the tribes would face increased competition.

Chris Grove, a gambling industry strategist at Eilers & Krejcik, said he expects several states — mostly in the Northeast and upper Midwest — to legalize sports betting in the next year, and then for the spread to slow because the remain-

ing states are reluctant to allow gambling generally or because of tribal influence.

"As you move farther west, the more complex the stakeholder picture and the harder it is to get anything done," he said.

But Bill Pascrell III, a lobbyist for some gambling companies, expects that even some states that have been traditionally reluctant to legalize gambling will allow sports betting in the future. He points to Tennessee, a state without any casinos, deciding to legalize online sports betting.

The absence of sports gambling in California, Texas and Florida, the nation's most populous states, leaves a gaping hole in the industry. They are home to more than a quarter of the teams in the four major professional sports and have about the same combined population as all the states that have adopted legalized sports betting, including those where bills have been sent to governors but not signed into law.

Other states, including Utah and South Carolina, are

Associated Press

unlikely to welcome sports betting anytime soon because it's difficult to sell any form of gambling there. Over the past year, states with legal sportsbooks have reported about \$9 billion in bets being made. But sportsbooks are a relatively low-margin business for their operators, who pay taxes only on how much they win, not how much is gambled.

According to their most recent financial reports, three of the states with legal sportsbooks are on pace to bring in far less than they expected in taxes their first fiscal year. Mississippi is bringing in about half of what it needs each month to reach an informal state target. Rhode Island and West Virginia are both on pace to bring in 20% to 30% of their expected revenue, according to an AP analysis. Even in New Jersey, where mobile betting has caught on quickly, sports betting taxes amount to far less than 1% of all state revenue. Washington state Rep. Derek Stanford, the Democratic chairman of a committee overseeing gambling activity, said he thinks the state is not ready for sports betting, and that's a reason none of the three bills to legalize it there gained traction this year.

He said the state needs to work through concerns ranging from the effects of legalized sports betting on public health to figuring out how it would affect tribal casinos.

"My sense is that we don't want to be the ones breaking new ground here," he said. "If other states are doing this, we can see what experience they have." □



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Trump: 'Surprise' question about Pence led him to hesitate

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he hesitated to back a possible 2024 presidential run by Vice President Mike Pence because he was caught off-guard by the question. Given a chance at a do-over, however, Trump still did not endorse his loyal lieutenant.

"You can't put me in that position," Trump said June 14 when a host of Fox News Channel's "Fox and Friends" asked him about endorsing Pence should the vice president seek to succeed Trump in 2024. Pence hasn't explicitly said he'll run in 2024, but is widely expected to.

Offered a chance to explain, Trump told NBC News he hesitated "because it was a surprise question."

"I'm not even thinking of it. It's so far out. I mean, it's so far out," Trump told "Meet the Press" in a wide-ranging interview taped Friday and broadcast Sunday. "Now what happens in 2024? I don't know that Mike is going to run. I don't know who's running or anything else."

Also in the interview, Trump criticized Fed chairman Jerome Powell and said his biggest mistake was choosing Jeff Sessions to be attorney general.

For his part, Pence glossed over the flap Trump's comments caused, telling CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that Trump's comment reflected "the fact that the only election he and I are focused on is 2020." Trump formally announced his 2020 reelection bid last week with Pence at his side. In the NBC interview, Trump lashed out at Powell over past interest rate hikes and denied threatening to demote him to the Fed's No. 2 job.

The Federal Reserve voted last week to leave its key interest rate unchanged, but the independent agency also signaled that it is prepared to begin cutting rates to protect the U.S. economy from trade conflicts and other threats.

Trump did not answer directly last week when he was questioned about news reports that the White House in February had explored whether Trump had the authority to demote Powell. Trump denied to NBC that such a threat has been issued.

"I have the right to do that. But I haven't said that," the president said.

Trump has previously explored firing Powell, who, by law, can only be fired

for cause.

The interview was airing locally Sunday as Trump arrived at his golf club in Sterling, Virginia, by helicopter from the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, where he spent part of the weekend.

Trump also returned to the White House on the helicopter instead of by motorcade, his usual means of travel to and from the club. White House officials did not respond to requests for comment on the change in the president's mode of travel. □



President Donald Trump, with first lady Melania Trump, and Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen, speaks from the Truman Balcony of the White House during the annual Congressional Picnic on the South Lawn, Friday June 21, 2019, in Washington.

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Trump's popularity could be tested if Sanders runs in 2022

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Press secretary Sarah Sanders seems to be in an enviable position as she leaves the White House for a possible run for governor in her home state of Arkansas. She has the tacit endorsement of a president popular in the state and political connections that go back to her dad Mike Huckabee's more than 10 years as governor.

Since her departure was announced this month, Sanders hasn't ruled out the possibility of a run for public office when she returns



In this Jan. 28, 2019, file photo, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders speaks during a press briefing at the White House in Washington.

to Arkansas later this summer. Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who was re-elected last year, is barred by term limits from running again in 2022.

Other White House officials who left have remained in the public eye by writing books and hitting the lecture circuit, but none has made a high-profile run for office. A Sanders candidacy could test whether President Donald Trump and questions about his administration's credibility are political liabilities, even in solidly Republican states. Trump has openly teased the prospect of Sanders running. "I have a feeling she's going to be running for a certain gubernatorial position," Trump said at a rally in Florida kicking off his reelection campaign last week. "She'd be tough, right?" Sanders became a household name over the past two years through her sparring with reporters who aggressively questioned her about any number of controversies involving the president. She was regularly skewered by late night hosts and "Saturday Night Live," which portrayed her as a dishonest loyalist to Trump with an exaggerated southern drawl.

Sanders was already a known quantity in Arkansas before her time in Washington. She appeared in ads for her father's campaign for governor, managed Sen. John Boozman's 2010 election and worked as an adviser to Sen. Tom Cotton's in 2014.

"I've told Sarah, it used to be you were known by

your dad," said former state Rep. Jonathan Barnett, a member of the Republican National Committee for the state and a longtime friend of the Huckabees. "Now your dad is known by you." Political observers in Arkansas see little downside in Sanders' connections to Trump, who easily won the state in 2016 and whose approval rating here remains above his national figures. Once a reliably Democratic state, Arkansas is now dominated by Republicans. The GOP controls both chambers of the legislature, all partisan statewide offices and every seat in its congressional delegation.

"In terms of a liftoff, in terms of a launch, in terms of a game plan, she got major support from a president that's extremely popular in Arkansas," said Skip Rutherford, dean of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, located next to the former president's library. "Among the base — and that base for President Trump seems to be growing in Arkansas — her nature to take on the national media is a plus for her politically right now."

But three years is a long time and a presidential election away. There's no guarantee Trump will remain as popular in Arkansas, or even be in office, when and if Sanders makes a bid. Democrats are already relishing the idea of a Sanders run, saying it would bring national money and attention to a race that may otherwise be written off. □

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Bikers bid goodbye to 7 motorcyclists killed in crash

By LISA RATHKE and PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, N.H. (AP) — A long-planned Blessing of the Bikes ceremony for motorcycle enthusiasts became a scene of mourning and reflection Sunday as about 400 people paid tribute to seven bikers killed in a devastating collision with a pickup truck.

The victims of the wreck Friday evening were members or supporters of the Marine JarHeads — a New England motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses — and ranged in age from 42 to 62.

"When they fall, we all fall," said Laura Cardinal, vice president of the Manchester Motorcycle Club, adding that fellow bikers will support the families of those who died. "Those families, they're going to go through a lot now. They have a new world ahead of them."

A pickup truck towing a flatbed trailer collided with a group of 10 motorcycles on a two-lane highway in the small town of Randolph, leaving victims strewn on the grass amid their shattered bikes. The cause of the crash was under investigation, and no immediate charges were filed.

Blessing of the Bikes ceremonies are held in many locations as a way to give prayers for a safe season. Sunday's event, situated about an hour from the accident site, was expected to draw maybe 100 or 200 people before it was transformed by tragedy.

The Rev. Rich Baillargeon presided, blessing the bikes using a branch dipped in holy water as they filed by, and held a moment of silence and prayer for the victims. One biker got up to say a prayer but got choked up and couldn't finish. The ceremony also included a bugle playing of taps.

Many of the bikers wore jeans and leather jackets

with their club patches and rumbled in on their Harley-Davidsons. The outdoor gathering took place on the property of a former church, with bikers parking in rows in the parking lot and on the grass on a warm, sunny day as vendors sold corn dogs, french fries, pizza, sausage and lemonade.

Gary and Sheila Judkins came from Sumner, Maine, in part because of the crash, saying being there was a way to feel connected to other riders.

"It's a positive thing for bikers. And if anything, bikers need something positive," Gary Judkins said.

Authorities identified the dead as Michael Ferazzi, 62, of Contoocook, New Hampshire; Albert Mazza Jr., 49, of Lee, New Hampshire; Desma Oakes, 42, of Concord, New Hampshire; Aaron Perry, 45, of Farmington, New Hampshire; Daniel Pereira, 58, of Riverside, Rhode Island; and Jo-Ann and Edward Corr, both 58, of Lakeville, Massachusetts. One person injured in the wreck remained hospitalized in stable condition. Relatives of all but one of the victims could not be reached for comment or their numbers were not listed. The state attorney general's office said the Ferazzi family had asked that reporters not contact them.

Mazza Jr.'s family described the former Marine and father of two as a quiet, self-starter who fell in love with motorcycles at an early age and always seemed to best anyone he competed against. When he got out of the Marines, he worked in the defense industry and then the construction business. Along with bikes, relatives said Mazza Jr. was passionate about judo and hunting when he was growing up. In the past two decades, his father Albert Mazza said he had very little contact with his son partly because he lives in



Motorcyclists participate in a "Blessing of the Bikes" ceremony in Columbia, N.H., Sunday, June 23, 2019.

Associated Press

Kenly, North Carolina.

"He was a young man who could do anything. I competed in all kinds of things in my life ... and everything he tried to do, he beat me in," Albert Mazza said. "He was a natural at everything ... He was a tough, young guy who didn't know how to quit ... I was always

proud of him and I always bragged on him because I knew he was a better man than I was."

Joseph Mazza, Mazza Jr.'s uncle who lives in Haverhill, Massachusetts, said he was still dealing with the accident and trying to comprehend how so many bikers died in one accident. □

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AP sources: U.S. struck Iranian military computers this week

By TAMI ABDOLLAH

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. military cyber forces launched a strike against Iranian military computer systems on Thursday as President Donald Trump backed away from plans for a more conventional military strike in response to Iran's downing of a U.S. surveillance drone, U.S. officials said Saturday.

Two officials told The Associated Press that the strikes were conducted with approval from Trump. A third official confirmed the broad outlines of the strike. All spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the operation.

The cyberattacks — a contingency plan developed over weeks amid escalating tensions — disabled Iranian computer systems that controlled its rocket and missile launchers, the officials said. Two of the officials said the attacks, which specifically targeted Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps computer system, were provided as options after Iranian forces blew up two oil tankers earlier this month.

The IRGC, which was designated a foreign terrorist group by the Trump administration earlier this year, is a branch of the Iranian military.

The action by U.S. Cyber Command was a demonstration of the U.S.'s increasingly mature cyber military



In this Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017, file photo, a flame burns at the Shell Deer Park oil refinery in Deer Park, Texas.

Associated Press

capabilities and its more aggressive cyber strategy under the Trump administration. Over the last year U.S. officials have focused on persistently engaging with adversaries in cyberspace and undertaking more offensive operations. There was no immediate reaction Sunday morning in Iran to the U.S. claims. Iran has hardened and disconnected much of its infrastructure from the internet after the Stuxnet computer virus, widely believed to be a joint U.S.-Israeli creation, disrupted thousands of Iranian centrifuges in the late 2000s.

Tensions have escalated between the two countries ever since the U.S. withdrew last year from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and

began a policy of "maximum pressure." Iran has since been hit by multiple rounds of sanctions. Tensions spiked this past week after Iran shot down an unmanned U.S. drone — an incident that nearly led to a U.S. military strike against Iran on Thursday evening. The cyberattacks are the latest chapter in the U.S. and Iran's ongoing cyber operations targeting the other. Yahoo News first reported the cyber strike.

In recent weeks, hackers believed to be working for the Iranian government have targeted U.S. government agencies, as well as sectors of the economy, including finance, oil and gas, sending waves of spear-phishing emails, according to representatives of cybersecurity companies CrowdStrike and FireEye, which regularly track such activity. This new campaign appears to have started shortly after the Trump administration imposed sanctions on the Iranian petrochemical sector this month.

It was not known if any of the hackers managed to gain access to the targeted networks with the emails, which typically mimic legitimate emails but contain malicious software. Tensions have run high between the two countries since the U.S. withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal

with Iran last year and began a policy of "maximum pressure." Iran has since been hit by multiple rounds of sanctions. Then Iran shot down an unmanned U.S. drone this week.

"Both sides are desperate to know what the other side is thinking," said John Hultquist, director of intelligence analysis at FireEye. "You can absolutely expect the regime to be leveraging every tool they have available to reduce the uncertainty about what's going to happen next, about what the U.S.'s next move will be."

CrowdStrike shared images of the spear-phishing emails with the AP.

One such email that was confirmed by FireEye appeared to come from the Executive Office of the President and seemed to be trying to recruit people for an economic adviser position. Another email was more generic and appeared to include details on updating Microsoft Outlook's global address book. The Iranian actor involved in the cyberattack, dubbed "Refined Kitten" by CrowdStrike, has for years targeted the U.S. energy and defense sectors, as well as allies such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, said Adam Meyers, vice president of intelligence at CrowdStrike. The Department of Home-

land Security said in a statement released Saturday that its agency tasked with infrastructure security has been aware of a recent rise in malicious cyber activities directed at U.S. government agencies by Iranian regime actors and proxies.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Director Christopher C. Krebs said the agency has been working with the intelligence community and cybersecurity partners to monitor Iranian cyber activity and ensure the U.S. and its allies are safe.

"What might start as an account compromise, where you think you might just lose data, can quickly become a situation where you've lost your whole network," Krebs said.

The National Security Agency would not discuss Iranian cyber actions specifically, but said in a statement to the AP on Friday that "there have been serious issues with malicious Iranian cyber actions in the past."

"In these times of heightened tensions, it is appropriate for everyone to be alert to signs of Iranian aggression in cyberspace and ensure appropriate defenses are in place," the NSA said.

Iran has long targeted the U.S. oil and gas sectors and other critical infrastructure, but those efforts dropped significantly after the nuclear agreement was signed. After Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal in May 2018, cyber experts said they have seen an increase in Iranian hacking efforts.

"This is not a remote war (anymore)," said Sergio Caltagirone, vice president of threat intelligence at Dragos Inc. "This is one where Iranians could quote unquote bring the war home to the United States." Caltagirone said as nations increase their abilities to engage offensively in cyberspace, the ability of the United States to pick a fight internationally and have that fight stay out of the United States physically is increasingly reduced. □

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Buttigieg criticized at emotional town hall after shooting

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg faced criticism Sunday from angry residents of South Bend, Indiana, at an emotional town hall meeting a week after a white police officer fatally shot a black man in the city where he is mayor.

Buttigieg (BOO'-tuh-juhj) said he would call for an outside investigation of the shooting of 54-year-old Eric Logan by Sgt. Ryan O'Neill. The 37-year-old mayor said he would send a letter to the federal Department of Justice's civil rights division and notify the local prosecutor that he'd like an independent investigator appointed. He conceded that his administration had failed on two key initiatives. "The effort to recruit more minority officers to the police department and the effort to introduce body cameras have not succeeded and I accept responsibility for that," Buttigieg said.

Prosecutors investigating said that the shooting was not recorded by O'Neill's body camera.

The town hall grew contentious when some community members questioned whether the mayor had done enough to reform the police department in the city of 100,000 people, which is about a quarter

black. "Get the people that are racist off the streets," one woman in the audience said. "Reorganize your department. You can do that by Friday."

Buttigieg left the campaign trail for several days to deal with the reaction to the shooting, holding a late night news conference, meeting with the family of the man killed and addressing a protest rally where he was heckled by some in the crowd.

The June 16 shooting happened after O'Neill responded to a call about a suspicious person going through vehicles, a prosecutor investigating the case said. O'Neill spotted Logan leaning inside a car. When confronted, Logan approached O'Neill with a 6- to 8-inch knife raised over his head, the prosecutor said. O'Neill fired twice, with the other shot hitting a car door.

Violence flared again in South Bend early Sunday when a shooting at a pub left one man dead and 10 people injured, the St. Joseph County Metro Homicide Unit said. Five of the wounded remained in hospital in stable condition later Sunday. County Sheriff William Redmond said his officers assisted South Bend police in controlling a crowd of more than 100 "upset and angry citizens"

who came from the pub to the hospital where the wounded were taken. It was not immediately clear what prompted the shooting. Asked after the town hall meeting about the latest shooting, Buttigieg described it as a "reversal" after progress in curbing violence in South Bend earlier this year and in 2018. □



Democratic presidential candidate and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg answers questions during a town hall community meeting, Sunday, June 23, 2019, at Washington High School in South Bend, Ind.

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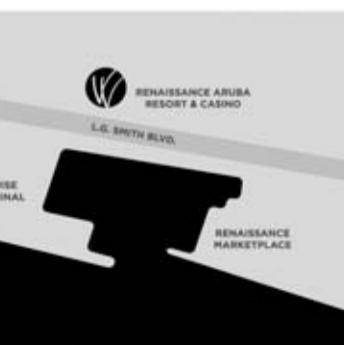


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Opposition win in Istanbul a blow to Turkey's Erdogan

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY and DEREK GATOPPOULOS

ISTANBUL (AP) — The opposition candidate for mayor of Istanbul celebrated a landmark win Sunday in a closely watched repeat election that ended weeks of political tension and broke the long hold President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party had on leading Turkey's largest city.

"Thank you, Istanbul," Ekrem Imamoglu, 49, said to the tens of thousands of people who gathered to mark his victory after unofficial results showed he won a clear majority of the vote. The governing party's candidate, former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, conceded moments after returns showed him trailing well behind Imamoglu, 54% to 45%. Imamoglu increased his lead from a March mayoral election by hundreds of thousands of votes.

Erdogan congratulated Imamoglu in a tweet. Analysts noted the president, who is grappling with an economic downturn and several international crises, could limit the mayor's power or undermine Imamoglu's authority in other ways.

Imamoglu narrowly won an earlier mayoral election on March 31, but Erdogan's Justice and Development Party, AKP, challenged the vote over alleged irregularities. He spent 18 days in office before Turkey's electoral board annulled the results after weeks of partial recounts.

The voided vote raised concerns domestically and abroad about the state of Turkish democracy and



Ekrem Imamoglu candidate of the secular opposition Republican People's Party makes statements at CHP offices in Istanbul, Sunday, June 23, 2019.

Associated Press

whether Erdogan's party would accept any electoral loss. AKP has governed Turkey since 2002.

"You have protected the reputation of democracy in Turkey with the whole world watching," Imamoglu, his voice hoarse after weeks of campaigning, told supporters.

Jubilant supporters chanted "Mayor again! Mayor again!" Others hung out of cars, blaring horns and waving red-and-white Turkish flags. Erdogan campaigned

hard for Yildirim in Istanbul, where the president started his political career as mayor in 1994. Lisel Hintz, an assistant international relations professor at Johns Hopkins University SAIS, said Imamoglu withstood a divisive campaign and prevailed with a positive message. The significance of his win "cannot be understated," Hintz said.

"We now have to wait and see whether Imamoglu's tenure as mayor will be interfered with in any way, whether by cutting off

funding and hampering his office's ability to provide services or by removing him under some legal pretext," Hintz said.

AKP also lost control of the capital city of Ankara in Turkey's March local elections, which were held as the country battled high inflation and two credit rating downgrades in the past year.

Melihat Ugen said she switched her vote to the opposition because she could not afford to cover basic expenses. □

"I've certainly never voted left before," she said. "But I'm 62, and a bag of onions costs too much. Everything is imported and we can't afford it."

Istanbul, a city of more than 15 million, draws millions of tourists each year and is Turkey's commercial and cultural hub. Straddling Europe and Asia, Istanbul accounted for 31% of Turkey's GDP in 2017.

Erdogan has previously signaled an unwillingness to work with an opposition mayor, saying his party controls 25 of Istanbul's 39 districts and a majority in the municipal assembly. Imamoglu will have to work with those officeholders to govern Istanbul, and he promised to do so Sunday. Addressing Erdogan in a speech, Imamoglu said, "I'm ready to work with you" to solve Istanbul's problems. Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, Ankara office director of the German Marshall Fund, argued that the loss of Istanbul is likely to fuel speculation of divisions within the ruling party and among its supporters.

"It's now clear that a sizable portion of the AKP voters is seriously dissatisfied by policies of the AKP," he said. "The (opposition) was a house that was united. The AKP house looked like one that was already divided." He argued Erdogan is already facing an "a perfect storm" this summer. Erdogan was already at odds with Western allies over Turkey's plans to buy the Russian-made S-400 missile defense system and its challenge of EU-member Cyprus over natural gas drilling rights. □

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Britain's Conservative party leadership candidate Boris Johnson gestures during the first party hustings at the ICC in Birmingham, England, Saturday June 22, 2019.

Associated Press

UK: Police visit incident dogs Johnson's leadership campaign

LONDON (AP) — The leading contender to become Britain's next prime minister was under pressure Sunday to address a visit police officers made to his London apartment after a reported quarrel with his girlfriend. Political rivals questioned Boris Johnson's refusal to comment on the incident that brought officers to his door early Friday, when a neighbor reported hearing shouting, screaming and banging from the home Johnson shares with partner Carrie Symonds.

The former British foreign secretary and London mayor emerged from five rounds of voting by Conservative Party lawmakers as the runaway favorite to follow Theresa May as party leader and U.K. prime min-

ister. Asked about the police visit several times during a Conservative forum on Saturday, Johnson said the public did not want to "hear about that kind of thing." He said people should judge his character from his track record as London's mayor and on his plans for leading the U.K. But the incident continued to dominate Britain's headlines Sunday. The other candidate in the runoff for Conservative leader, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, said Johnson should not "shy away" from questions.

"I'm not going to comment on Boris' personal life ... But what Boris needs to do is to engage properly in this leadership debate," Hunt told Sky News. □

China's Qu Dongyu elected as new FAO general director

ROME (AP) — Qu Dongyu, China's deputy agricultural minister, was elected Sunday as the new director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the first person from a Communist country to hold the influential FAO post. The agency's 194 member countries convened at the FAO headquarters in Rome to choose a successor to José Graziano da Silva of Brazil for the 4-year term.

Qu, 55, a biologist by training, won 108 votes, followed by France's Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle with 71 votes and Georgia's Davit Kirvalidze with 12, according to official results. The United States had backed Kirvalidze.

The FAO, which has over

11,500 employees around

the globe, works closely

with other U.N. agencies to

achieve the goal of a hun-

ger-free world by 2030. To-

day, more than 800 million

people are facing hunger

and many experts doubt

that the 2030 goal will be

reached.

Prior to the vote, Qu said he aims to focus on hunger and poverty eradication, tropical agriculture, drought land farming, digital rural development and better land design through transformation of agricultural production. An expert on agriculture and rural areas, he has worked in the



Qu Dongyu from China, one of the candidates for the Director-General position of the FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization), addresses a plenary meeting of the 41st Session of the Conference, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Saturday, June 22, 2019. The new FAO Director-General will be voted on Sunday.

Associated Press

field for more than 30 years. "This is a special day," he said in his speech accepting the post. "This is our day."

Qu said he was "grateful to his motherland," but then added he would be faithful to the FAO's missions.

Ahead of his election, he rejected claims that he would be beholden to instructions from Beijing, pledging that China would follow "FAO regulations and rules."

He also defended his credentials, saying he is a "scientist" educated in Europe, America and China. Before joining China's agriculture ministry, Qu worked at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, where he focused on conducting research and innovation, raising rural income,

reducing poverty through science and technology and building a quality assessment system for produce.

From 2008 to 2015, he worked in the government of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, where he applied new approaches to agricultural publications and rural tourism and provided startup micro-lending to young and female farmers.

Since being appointed vice-minister in 2015, Qu has spearheaded measures such as reforms for rural areas; using information technologies to help agriculture; instituting exchange mechanisms on urban agriculture and promoting brands and specialty industries. □

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Yemeni rebels strike Saudi airport ahead of Pompeo visit

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — One person was killed and seven others were wounded in an attack by Iranian-allied Yemeni rebels on an airport in Saudi Arabia Sunday evening, the Saudi military said, as the U.S. secretary of state was on his way to the country for talks on Iran.

Regional tensions have flared in recent days. The U.S. abruptly called off military strikes against Iran in response to the shooting down of an unmanned American surveillance drone on Thursday.

The Trump administration has combined a "maximum pressure" campaign of economic sanctions with a buildup of American forces in the region following the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. A new set of U.S. sanctions on Iran are expected to be announced Monday.

The Sunday attack by the Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis, targeted the Saudi airport in Abha. Saudi Arabia has been at war with the Houthis in Yemen for more than four years.

A Houthi spokesman, Yahia al-Sarie, said earlier Sunday the rebels had launched drones targeting Saudi airports in the southern cities of Abha and Jizan.

Saudi Arabia's military spokesman Col. Turki al-Maliki did not say what type of weapon was used in Sunday's attack, which took place shortly after 9 p.m. local time. The Saudi Press Agency reported that a Syrian resident of Saudi Arabia had been killed, but did not identify the nationalities of those wounded.

It was the second attack in less than two weeks on Abha's airport. The Houthis launched a cruise missile



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks to the media at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Sunday, June 23, 2019, before boarding a plane headed to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Associated Press

at the airport on June 12, wounding 26 passengers inside. The Iranian-backed Houthis also claimed responsibility for bomb-laden drone strikes that targeted a key Saudi oil pipeline in recent weeks.

Also Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was traveling to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for talks on Iran. His meetings in Saudi Arabia will be in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, about 315 miles (505 kilometers) north of where the Saudi airport was struck.

Speaking to reporters before flying out, he said he'll be talking to the two U.S. allies "about how to make sure that we are all strategically aligned" and how to build a global coalition to "push back against the world's largest state sponsor of terror." At the same time, Pompeo reiterated that the U.S. was prepared to negotiate with Iran to ease tensions.

"We're prepared to negotiate with no preconditions.

They know precisely how to find us," he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. national security adviser John Bolton was in Jerusalem on Sunday, where he said Iran should not "mistake U.S. prudence and discretion for weakness." President Donald Trump has said he backed away from planned strikes after learning 150 people would be killed.

Bolton's tough message seemed to be aimed not only at Tehran, but also at reassuring key U.S. allies that the White House remains committed to maintaining pressure on Iran. Israel, along with Arab countries in the Gulf, considers Iran to be their greatest threat, and Trump's last-minute about face appears to have raised questions about U.S. willingness to use force against the Islamic Republic.

On Sunday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani blamed the United States' "interventionist military presence" for fanning the

flames. He was quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

Bolton, a longtime Iran hawk, emphasized that the U.S. reserved the right to attack at a later point. "No one has granted them a hunting license in the Middle East. As President Trump said on Friday our military is rebuilt, new and ready to go," Bolton said alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, himself a vocal critic of Iran over the years. Netanyahu, a longtime opponent of the nuclear deal, has remained uncharacteristically quiet throughout the current crisis between the U.S. and Iran. The Israeli leader appears to be wary of being seen as pushing the U.S. into a new Middle Eastern military conflict.

Standing alongside Bolton, Netanyahu said Iranian involvement in conflicts across the region had increased as a result of the nuclear deal, which lifted sanctions on Iran in exchange for set limits on its

uranium enrichment levels. Netanyahu made no mention of the called-off air-strike and said he was "pleased" by U.S. plans for increased economic pressure. But some Israeli commentators said that Trump's about-face was a cause for concern.

Iran's foreign minister said Bolton was trying to force the U.S. into a conflict with Iran. Javad Zarif tweeted that the presidential adviser was "moments away from trapping" Trump into a "war," before the U.S. president called off the strikes against Iran.

America's European allies have expressed deep concern about the volatile standoff. A top British diplomat was in Tehran on Sunday to discuss preventing any "escalation and miscalculation," according to the UK Foreign Office.

The two-day visit of Andrew Murrison, the UK's minister of state for the Middle East, was aimed at "open, frank and constructive engagement" with his Iranian counterparts, according to the Foreign Office. This included reiterating the UK's assessment that Iran almost certainly bears responsibility for recent attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, which Iran denies.

Murrison added that Iran must continue to meet its commitments under the nuclear deal.

Iran has threatened to break the limits set on its uranium stockpile by the deal in the coming days, if European powers don't find a way to circumvent U.S. sanctions.

According to IRNA, Iranian officials told Murrison they hoped that European signatories to the nuclear deal will pursue "normal relations and trade" despite the sanctions. □



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Rescuers try to remove the rubble at the site of a collapsed building in Preah Sihanouk province, Cambodia, Sunday, June 23, 2019.

Associated Press

Cambodia PM to oversee rescue operation at building collapse

By HENG SINITH and SO-PHENG CHEANG

Associated Press

SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Sunday that he was heading to the seaside resort town where a seven-story building under construction collapsed, killing at least 19 workers and injuring 24.

Hun Sen said he would oversee the rescue operation at the site in Sihanoukville, where the building collapsed early Saturday on top of dozens of workers sleeping inside. Rescuers have been digging through the twisted metal and concrete rubble in search of anyone buried, with the latest body pulled out Sunday night.

Provincial authorities said as of Sunday afternoon, half of the debris at the site had been cleared. Authorities, meanwhile, have questioned four Chinese

who were involved with the project.

Construction workers said the unfinished building doubled as their housing, with the crew spending nights on the second floor. Nhor Chandeun and his wife were asleep when at around 4 a.m. Saturday they heard a loud noise and the building crumbled on top of them.

"All the workers were asleep," the 31-year-old said from a hospital in the city. "A moment before the building collapsed it was vibrating and then it was falling down. But it was too quick to escape."

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training said that 30 workers were at the site when the building collapsed, but Nhor Chandeun said there were about 55-60 people inside the building.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the collapse.

In this image made from video, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announces a failed coup as he addresses the public on television, Sunday, June 23, 2019.

Associated Press

Ethiopia says military chief killed, regional coup failed

By ELIAS MESERET
Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

— Ethiopia's military chief was shot to death by his bodyguard amid a failed coup attempt against a regional government north of the capital, Addis Ababa, the prime minister said Sunday.

The abortive coup Saturday in the Amhara region was led by a high-ranking military officer and others in the armed forces, said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who addressed the nation on state TV at 2 a.m. while wearing fatigues.

The soldiers attacked a building where a meeting of regional officials was taking place, said Nigussu Tilahun, a spokesman for the prime minister. The regional governor and an adviser were killed, while the attorney general was wounded, he said.

Not long after, army chief Gen. Seare Mekonnen who assassinated at his home in Addis Ababa, and a retired army general visiting him was also killed, the spokesman said.

"There is a link between the two attacks," Nigussu said without elaborating.

The attack in Bahir Dar, the capital of Amhara, was led by a renegade brigadier who had recently been pardoned by the prime minister after being jailed by the previous government, authorities said.

Most of the perpetrators were captured, and others were being hunted down, the spokesman said.

The brigadier remained at large, according to two officials who spoke to The As-

sociated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Addis Ababa was peaceful on Sunday as soldiers stood guard in Meskel Square and set up roadblocks throughout the city. Ethiopia's internet appeared to be shut down.

The attempted coup was the latest challenge to Abiy, who was elected last year.

The 42-year-old Abiy has captured the imagination of many with his political and economic reforms, including the surprise acceptance of a peace agreement with Eritrea, the opening of major state-owned sectors to private investment and the release of thousands of prisoners, including opposition figures once sentenced to death.

Minister: 8 tourism deaths in Dominican Republic not unusual

By DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The deaths of eight American tourists in the Dominican Republic this year are not part of a mysterious wave of fatalities but a medically and statistically normal phenomenon that has been lumped together by the U.S. media, the island's tourism minister said Friday. Autopsies show the tourists died of natural causes, Tourism Minister Francisco Javier García told reporters. He said five of the autopsies are complete, and three are undergoing further toxicological analysis with the help from the FBI because of the circumstances of the deaths.

With some 3.2 million U.S. tourists visiting the Dominican Republic last year, he said, it's not unusual for eight people to die while on vacation over any six-month period. Dominican officials say they are confident the three deaths still under investigation were also from natural causes. "We want the truth to prevail," García said. "There is nothing to hide here."

The first deaths to make headlines, and still the most



The Minister of Tourism of the Dominican Republic Francisco Javier García holds a copy of an online article in a local paper saying the U.S. State Department considers recent reports on tourists' deaths to be exaggerated, at the Ministry of Tourism office in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

mysterious, were those of a couple who seemingly died at the same time in the same hotel room. The bodies of Edward Nathaniel Holmes, 63, and Cynthia Ann Day, 49, were found May 30 in their room at the Grand Bahia Principe La Romana hotel. Several medications were found in the room, including an

anti-inflammatory drug, an opioid and blood-pressure medicine, García said. Autopsies found pulmonary edema, an accumulation of fluid in the lungs frequently caused by heart disease.

Soon after the couple's death, family members appeared in U.S. media reports questioning the

death of Miranda Schaup-Werner, 41, of Allentown, Pennsylvania, who died May 25 at the Luxury Bahia Principe Bouganville hotel. A family spokesman told reporters that she collapsed after getting a drink from the minibar. An autopsy found that she died of a heart attack, García said.

After the reporting on Schaup-Werner, more coverage followed, with relatives of people who died in the Dominican Republic telling local reporters across the U.S. that they were worried about their loved ones being victims of a strange chain of unexplained deaths, possibly caused by adulterated alcohol or misused pesticides. The reported cases included at least two deaths from 2018.

The Dominican government has been criticized for not being more forthcoming about the details of the death investigations. They "probably have some indication of what it could be or what it might not be," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious diseases and critical care doctor at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. But officials have been "very opaque" about their findings.

"The longer they keep everybody in suspense, the worst it's going to be for the Dominican Republic, especially when they're so dependent on tourism. Because the longer this goes on unexplained, the longer people are going to be leery of going there," Adalja said. □



In this May 31, 2019 photo, urban artist Knorke Leaf walks near her mural depicting the Morenada dance, in the hillside Chauluma neighborhood, in La Paz, Bolivia.

Associated Press

By PAOLA FLORES

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — A state-sponsored project in Bolivia is aiming to use urban art to capture some of the rich traditions of indigenous culture and turn an area into a tourist attraction.

The project involves adorning homes with murals and

was carried out by residents of a poor neighborhood who have sought inspiration from Andean textiles. Images now include indigenous Aymara women selling produce and spices in the streets, hummingbirds taking flight and multicolored geometrical shapes on what once were plain

Bright murals greet visitors to poor Bolivian neighborhood

adobe and brick walls on a hillside of Bolivia's capital. "When we wake up in the morning, we now see colors. We no longer see the adobe or brick. I love my view," said Tomasa Gutiérrez, who heads the Chauluma neighborhood council. She stood in front of a mural that read "Libertad" — Spanish for "Liberty" — and included paintings of "cholitas" indigenous women wearing the traditional billowing skirts, embroidered shawls and bowler hats.

"We've decided that our homes should show who we are, our customs, our culture," she said. Chauluma is located

about 12,500 feet (3,800 meters) above sea level and it's reached by a steep staircase known ominously as "The 1,000 steps."

The high-altitude exercise leads to a majestic view of the snow-capped Illimani peak that towers over the mountain-locked Bolivian capital. Less ambitious visitors can ride a cable car that connects La Paz to its sister city of El Alto.

The \$4.5 million mural project called "Mi Qhatu" — "market" in Aymara — includes about 160 homes and is based on an initiative in Mexico's Hidalgo state, said Pablo Balanza, the coordinator of the National Fund for Productive

and Social Investment. The residents-turned-painters are guided by four urban artists and about 50 masons who have also made home renovations, including strengthening once-crumbling walls.

The project director, urban artist Knorke Leaf, said the murals seek to "bring joy" and attract tourists by showcasing the personality of Chauluma's people, who are mainly artisans and vendors who migrated to the neighborhood from the countryside.

"They painted my little home," said Eusebia Huancaca, who has lived in the neighborhood for 50 years. "They brought joy to me." □



EAGLE BEACH — Casa del Mar Beach Resort & Timeshare offers you paradise: an oceanfront location on the white, sandy Eagle Beach, the amazing blue-green colored Caribbean ocean, wonderful luxury oceanfront or poolside timesharing suites and a world of amenities like restaurants, swimming pool, gym, and a spa. Actually here comes the exceptional part. This is not your random spa; Clinical Massage & Spa Aruba is a healing place, owned by a professional with an extensive Eastern technique curriculum and an extraordinary skill for healing pain. Meet Florian Gossel alias Flo.

The focus of a clinical massage is the functional outcome whereas with a standard massage it is the satisfaction of the client at the moment. "Clinical massage is so powerful. I work on post traumatic patterns, the connection between brain and muscle and I can actually trace the pain. I work closely with doctors and chiropractors and my goal is to take away the pain where it comes from. That's why we call it pain management. I treat people with headaches, back pains and other serious issues that influence their lives on a structural base," Flo explains. He built a strong name on the island; both resort guests and locals are long-term clients.

Balance & Binding

"I am the only one doing the clinical massage, but I have a great team of eight therapists performing sport massages and relaxing massages. We also offer the service of body treatments, facials, hair & nail and waxing. I have a new, super-talented hair specialist in-house now!" He loves his place at the Casa del Mar because here you find that family spirit. "Every work I did was bound to family-vibes. I like that. This resort is 35 years old. The family comes here with the dad of 80, the son of 50 and the granddaughter of 20 – three generations connected. That to me is happiness. It feels good." You give your energy to people in a massage, so it has to be good, he says. You need to be balanced inside and that is his golden rule when it comes to work. "We are no robots doing massages hour after hour. I need to be energized to give the same to each client and that is how we work. To give the best and stay focused." Clinical Massage chooses to bind with nature meaning therapists use fire, Aruban aloe eucalyptus and other organic elements. Their slogan "We are a beautiful energy that transforms lives" says it all.

Flo's Journey

He has that thing in his fingers; he is overly sensitive in that part and was taught by blind doctors in China to see inside not with the eyes but with the fingers. "25 years ago, I was in the sports business in France, on a high level in kick boxing as part of the French team. I had a lot of massages already and I started to practice this myself with people around me like my mom and all told me that I have amazing hands." At that time massage was not really that much of a job like now, so he stayed in the sport business and put massages on the side. "I managed a fitness center, was a fighter and one day around the age of 29, I wondered about my future. I have Mongolian blood so I thought about a trip to Asia where I went into massage training for a year in Thailand." He learned the whole charade of Thai massage and after traveled around ending up living in Hoi Minh City in Vietnam for five years where he owned a spa and windsurfing school. "I was happy but I did not

make any money. One day a friend of mine said that I could go to China to work in a hospital with blind doctors at Beijing. I was amazed and it was a big culture shock as I did not speak Chinese. There was this big room with ten beds and all doctors were chiropractors and they performed Chinese massages. Only one doctor could see, they use all their other senses. They do massages to feel and trace the problems and taught me like eight hours a day for ten days long on only one technique. The doctor sees me bending over the client and asks me: what are you doing? Do you see me looking? Don't look but feel. You cannot see inside, you can only feel inside. It was a complete eye opener." Flo deepened his knowledge further in Asia as well as the U.S. and ended up in Aruba through a good friend. "I like the energy here, the sun, the multicultural and the smiling faces." □



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Aruba Celebrates Festive Dera Gai and St. John's Day!



ORANJESTAD – Festive Dera Gai and St. John's Day celebrations will take place today, June 24th, across the island of Aruba. Aruba's harvest festival 'Dera Gai' is now a cultural celebration featuring traditional song and dance. The symbol of the rooster and bright yellow and red costumes are central to events held at various locations including community centers.

Dera Gai which translates to "burying of the rooster" in the local language-is a cultural festival which has been celebrated for about 100 years on Aruba with traditional song and dance. This holiday is rife with both pagan and Christian symbolism reflecting the influences of the Ar-

awak natives and Spanish missionaries on the Island, respectively.

Traditionally, the Dera Gai celebration was centered around an unusual ritual. A hole was dug in the ground, and a live rooster was buried in the hole up to its neck. Blindfolded revelers would then be given three tries to decapitate the rooster with a long pole (piñata-style). (The Catholics considered this ritual to be symbolic of the decapitation of St. John the Baptist while the pagans believed that the spilling of the blood would fertilize the earth for the next growing season.) The one to carry out the deed was rewarded with bottles of alcohol and other prizes. Today, a more humane approach is taken. For example, at the Dera Gai celebration at S.V. Sportboys in Santa Cruz-one of the biggest Dera Gai celebrations on the Island-revelers are blindfolded and tasked with locating a flag staked into the ground while swaying their hips to the rhythms of a band. Every now and

then, the coordinator of the game fools the blindfolded participants by moving the flag while the game is in progress. Folk dance groups also reenact the burying and decapitation of the rooster using a plastic rooster. Decked out in bright yellow-and-red costumes-the yellow said to represent the bloom of the local kibrahacha tree in the month of June-these groups also perform harvest dance rituals.

Many years ago, bonfires were built on the eve of St. John's Day in order to communicate the arrival of the holiday to neighbors. The old clippings from the previous year's harvest would be burnt in preparation for the coming growing season. Nowadays, the fires are burnt island-wide on St. John's Day itself, serving as an olfactory reminder of this unique local festival. Today's celebration at S.V. Sportboys will start at 6 pm. Don't miss it.

Source: aruba.com. □



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It's Burger Mania at Salt & Pepper Restaurant

PALM BEACH — You are invited to go tall, taller or tallest. Salt & Pepper Restaurant in the Arawak Garden is ready for its lunch special XXL Burger Mania. A Double Bacon Cheeseburger with bacon, cheese, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, pickles and fries, is just the starting point. From there guests are invited to build and build some more, choosing extra toppings, going as tall as possible according to their taste.

Picture crisp bread, fresh vegetables and a juicy, juicy, XXL burger and we are sure your mouth starts watering. How tall will

you go? And, more importantly, what are you waiting for? Bon appetite! Check out the Burger Mania at Salt & pepper on FB and Instagram: #saltandpepperaruba.

Salt and Pepper Restaurant is one of the fabulous places of the Garden, located across from the Barceló Resort on the hi-rise strip. Open from breakfast time to late in the evening, with a wonderful, cozy bar, the restaurant is always filled with happy guests. Tapas are what Salt and Pepper specializes in, but there is a full menu available as well. □





Fishing in June

By Joris Zantvoort

ORANJESTAD — Already made plans for the summer? Too bad, you'll probably want to cancel those after you hear what Aruba's got in store. This June, you can bask in the warm Caribbean sun, and enjoy some of the best reel action of your life!

With temperatures averaging out around 90°, and some of the most colorful scenery in the entire Atlantic, this tropical paradise has got enough going for it on looks alone. But Aruba's got so much more to offer, especially in June.

The flats around the island

are teeming with the likes of Snook and Tarpon. If you want to try your hand at fly fishing, there are a number of local fly fishing guides specializing in these sorts of outings. The best part is, they won't make a huge dent in your budget – you can find a private half day outing for under \$300.

Want something a little more brag-worthy? Aruba's deep sea fishing has you covered. Most of the island's big game fishing charters leave from Oranjestad and Noord. One thing you'll notice is that the waterbed around the island drops off as soon

as you leave the dock. This means that you can reach the big game fishing grounds within just a few miles from the shore.

In June, you'll have a field day with Mahi Mahi, Yellowfin and Blackfin Tuna, and the ever-abundant Wahoo. Speaking of Wahoo, Captain Milton aboard Teaser Charters caught ten of them on a single trip!

We know what's going through your mind – time to cancel those old summer plans. And we don't blame you, thinking about fishing in Aruba will do that to you.



Captain of the Month – Milton Pichardo

Coming from a family of fishermen, Captain Milton aboard Teaser Charters has been fishing the Aruban waters ever since he could hold a rod. He earned his stripes helping his older brother as a first mate, and started his own charter business at the age of 20.

Today, Captain Milton is a big game fishing expert, and a record-setting tournament winner.

You'll spend your outing with Captain Milton aboard the beautiful Teaser, a 35' Bertram sportfisher. Powered by two 315 HP Cummins engines, this vessel can carry 6 passengers and has all the amenities you'll need for a comfortable outing on the water. Among other things, the Teaser boasts an enclosed toilet, a fighting chair, life jackets, and air-conditioning.

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Hotel

Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

Vacation Mode

ORANJESTAD — Summer is here and with summer comes vacation time for most. Of course Aruba and other Caribbean destinations are the go to places for most on the East Coast, however summer for us is also the beginning of Hurricane season. One of the things most hotels do during the season is start preparing the facilities just in case of anything and we are more alert than ever about weather conditions.

The start of June here has been no different, maintenance is busy cleaning out the gutters, securing any loose panels and generally making sure our generators are working properly. The security team is busy replenishing first aid supplies in every department, scheduling emergency response trainings and doing drills to keep everyone sharp and on their toes. All in an effort to ensure we are prepared in case of any eventuality.

The current season so far has been relatively calm so far as is the standard for June, however we have been experiencing unusual amounts of dust blowing off the sub Saharan cost. Which is why it looks near foggy in the distances and also higher than normal



winds. It's the reason why the Aruba hi-winds competition is held during these months it's perfect wind and beach conditions. Of course we have had near constant wind advisories and rough water advisories.

If you're staying at the high rise hotels this isn't that much of a problem since the waters on that end are mostly calm. However if you're staying on the low rise side between Bucuti and Costa Linda and our hotel in particular Casa Del Mar the waters can be a bit more active due to being on a point. It's great for some light boogie boarding most times, but once the advisories kick up the water takes on a life of its own and can be tough even for the best of swimmers.

It's one of those times where even if you're in vacation mode, you need to be much more alert and careful of the water before going in. Recently there have been a few incidents at some of the beaches resulting in minor incidents such as a sprained ankle by someone who got hit by a rogue wave to a few more serious injuries.

Every hotel has security staff and all employees as stated are trained in first aid, emergency response and living on an island we are all capable of swimming or taught how to swim. It doesn't mean though that any members of staff or security are trained in rescue swimming and certainly we don't have the appropriate equipment to perform rough water rescues. That's the reason why personal responsibility is important and knowledge of your physical condition and swimming ability. On days when there are strong currents, the best thing to do is stay at the shallow end of the water or better yet use the pool. If drunk then please stay away from the sea all together, it's ridiculous how many times staff have to fish drunk people out of the water.

So this summer keep in mind we are doing our best to ensure you have a fun and safe vacation and we hope you vacation responsibly too for your sake and ours. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

SPORTS



Los Angeles Dodgers Max Muncy, left, stand with Cody Bellinger, center, and manager Dave Roberts after Bellinger hit a fan with a foul ball during the first inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies Sunday, June 23, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Rookie trifecta: Smith delivers 3rd straight walk-off for L.A.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hours after being called up from the minors, Will Smith connected for a pinch-hit, three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning that lifted the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Colorado Rockies 6-3 Sunday.

It was the third straight day a Dodgers rookie hit a walk-off homer — all against the Rockies — the first time that has happened in major league history. Matt Beaty hit a two-run shot in the ninth inning on Friday and Alex Verdugo did it in the 11th on Saturday.

Smith, a 24-year-old catcher playing his seventh game in the big leagues, hit a slider from Scott Oberg (5-1) over the wall in center. Beaty singled to lead off the inning and advanced on a wild pitch, and Russell Martin was intentionally walked with two outs to bring up Beaty. Smith was promoted from Triple-A when infielder David Freese was put on the 10-day injured list retroactive to Friday with a left hamstring sprain.

Continued on Page 22

**GREEN
MACHINE**

Hannah Green wins KPMG Women's PGA Championship

Hannah Green, of Australia, studies the green on the ninth hole during the final round of the KPMG Women's PGA Championship golf tournament, Sunday, June 23, 2019, in Chaska, Minn.

Associated Press
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Martin Truex Jr. holds off KyBusch to defend Sonoma title

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) —

Martin Truex Jr. and Kyle Busch have managed to keep their long-standing rivalry quite friendly during their first season as teammates at Joe Gibbs Racing. It's a bit easier for Truex to be a gracious winner — and for Busch to be somewhat content with second place — when their two Toyotas are blowing away the rest of the NASCAR Cup Series field by a full 31 seconds, as they did on a dominant Sunday in wine country.

Truex won on the hilly road course at Sonoma Raceway for the second straight year and the third time in his career, comfortably holding off Busch for JGR's 10th victory of the season.

Truex won for the fourth time in the last eight points-paying races, earning his 23rd career victory overall. Busch also has four wins this season, putting the two veteran drivers in position for a long summer of friendly competition.

"We race as hard as we can possibly race on the race track, and we respect each other off it," Truex said. "That works out pretty good."

Although Busch is a vicious competitor, he had perspective on this result after failing to find a way to make a late push past Truex. Their careers have intersected regularly since 2004, when Truex held off Busch to win the Busch Series championship.

"It (stinks) to finish second to a teammate, but it is good for the company," said Busch, who has four top-five finishes in the last five years at Sonoma. "Overall, Martin is really good here. I'm just pumped that I actually ran good."

Ryan Blaney was a distant third, more than 33 seconds behind Truex. Matt DiBenedetto finished a career-best fourth, and JGR's Denny Hamlin was fifth. Erik Jones, JGR's fourth driver, came in eighth.

Truex and Busch finished 1-2 for the seventh time in their careers, and they were the

class of the final stage in a caution-free race. While JGR isn't overwhelming its foes in the points standings, it hopes to build on its strong Northern California performance into the summer.

"What a season we've turned this into," said Truex, who has won with three different team owners at Sonoma. "This group, man, they're unbelievable. Hopefully we can keep it going."

After Hamlin won the second stage, Truex got the lead early in the third stage, and Busch didn't follow Truex into the pits for the final stop. When Busch finally pitted four laps later, Truex reclaimed the lead with 23 laps to go. Truex opened an 8-second advantage

and held off a strong push by Busch to win by 1.861 seconds.

More things to know about Sonoma:

WHO'S HOT

DiBenedetto gave an impressive performance after starting in 19th, patiently picking his way up the field with an impressively fast Toyota. The Northern California native had family and friends in the stands to watch his feat.

WHO'S NOT

Series points leader Joey Logano had battery problems and had to pit with 15 laps to go. He finished 23rd. Chase Elliott started fourth and ran near the front for much of the day before his engine apparently blew early in the final stage.

TAKE A RIDE



Martin Truex Jr., center, celebrates after winning a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race Sunday, June 23, 2019, in Sonoma, Calif.

Associated Press

The drivers had little trouble navigating "The Carousel," the extra turns inserted into the NASCAR layout for the first time since 1997. The layout is expected to be a permanent part of the

NASCAR race now.

MY BAD

Busch isn't typically an apologetic driver, but he gave his regrets to Blaney for bumping him from the back during the final stage.

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Hannah Green holds her nerve and becomes major champion

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CHASKA, Minn. (AP) — Hannah Green never felt more nervous than standing over a 5-foot par putt Sunday at Hazeltine National with a chance to win her first major at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

Neither did Karrie Webb, who won seven majors in her Hall of Fame career. Webb watched from outside the ropes, her heart racing. It was 11 years ago in Minnesota that Webb started a scholarship program to bring young Australian amateurs to majors to spend a week with her and experience golf's biggest events. Four years ago, Green was one of those scholarship winners. And now she's a major champion.

Green held her nerve to the end, hitting 8-iron to 15 feet for a pivotal birdie on the 16th hole, and getting up-and-down from a bunker onto the 18th hole for an even-par 72 and a one-shot victory over defending champion Sung Hyun Park.

"I can't believe I'm in this position right now," said Green, a 22-year-old Australian in her second year



Hannah Green, of Australia, holds the trophy after winning the KPMG Women's PGA Championship golf tournament, Sunday, June 23, 2019, in Chaska, Minn.

Associated Press

on the LPGA Tour. "I've always wanted to win an event, and to win a major championship as my first is crazy."

She became the first wire-to-wire winner of this major since Yani Tseng in 2011, and even more amaz-

ing is who she held off to claim the silver trophy. She started the final round with a one-shot lead over Ariya Jutanugarn, the most powerful player on tour and a two-time major champion. Jutanugarn didn't make a birdie in her round of 77. Then it was Park, another former No. 1 and two-time major winner, making an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a 68 that left Green no margin for error. Watching it all unfold was Webb, as clutch as there was in her prime, the only

woman to capture the "Super Slam" of five different LPGA majors. She stayed with Green in a house all week, along with the two most recent scholarship winners — Becky Kay and Grace Kim — who were draped in Australian flags at Hazeltine.

"I feel like I won a golf tournament today I'm so excited for her," Webb said. "You didn't do it yourself, but you supported someone who realized that dream."

They all charged the 18th green to celebrate with Green, spraying her with cans of beer in true Aussie fashion. It's become a tradition on the LPGA Tour for friends to spray winners with

water bottles, and Webb would not allow that to happen.

"It was Budweiser," she said. Green, who won three times on the Symetra Tour in 2017 to earn an LPGA Tour card, became the first Australian to win an LPGA Tour major since Webb won her last one in 2006 at the Kraft Nabisco Championship. "I'm speechless," Green said as she fought to get the words out through such strong emotions. "I was really nervous playing the last five holes."

She finished at 9-under 279 and won \$577,500.

It was hard work, even though Green never surrendered the lead on a cloudy day at Hazeltine with some light drops of rain at the end.

Green rolled in a 5-foot birdie putt on the par-5 seventh for a three-shot lead. With the group ahead still waiting to tee off, a 7-year-old girl handed her a blue sheet of paper. It was a poem she wrote to Green, along with the words, "You can win this."

Green, who had given Lily Kostner a golf ball at the ANA Inspiration this year, read the poem and hugged the girl, and then

drilled another tee shot to birdie range.

"I had it in the back of my yardage book because I didn't want it to get rained on," Green said. "A couple times on the back nine when I was feeling nervous and had some time, I actually read it to myself."

The nerves didn't really leave, especially after making three bogeys in a four-hole stretch that dropped her to 8 under, a four-shot lead suddenly down to one.

Mel Reid closed with a 66 and posted at 6-under 282. Nelly Korda was one behind until a soft bogey on the par-5 15th. Park birdied that hole to get to 7 under, and Green couldn't afford any mistakes. It looked as if she had it wrapped up when she made a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th, the signature hole at Hazeltine, followed by a par on the 17th.

Park wasn't finished, however, and she hit her tee shot so hard on the 18th that it went through the corner of the rough into the fairway, setting up a tidy approach to the back pin position and one last birdie. Green answered her final challenge with the bunker save, and the celebration was on with Webb and the two scholarship winners, Stacy Peters from Golf Australia and Jarryd Fenton, her boyfriend who plays on the PGA Tour of Australasia. "I always wanted to win in front of an Aussie crowd," Green said. "That's what it was like today. I'm over the moon."

Korda (71) and Reid tied for third, while Lizette Salas (72) and Danielle Kang (70) were four shots behind. The surprise was Jutanugarn, who started the final round one shot behind on a course that measured nearly 6,800 yards, perfect for her power. She tied for 10th.

Green becomes the 11th player to win the last 11 majors on the LPGA Tour, a sign of growing parity. She also is the third winner in the last five LPGA majors who had never won on the LPGA Tour....□

Jerry Kelly wins hometown PGA Tour Champions event

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Jerry Kelly won his hometown PGA Tour Champions event, beating Retief Goosen with a birdie on the third hole of a playoff Sunday in the American Family Insurance Championship.

Kelly closed with a 6-under 66 at rainy University Ridge to match Goosen and tournament host and fellow Madison player Steve Stricker at 15-under 201.

"The chills were flying up and down," Kelly said. "It was pretty amazing. My mom saying the sun came out, my dad was there. I haven't won since my dad passed, so this was the first one and I was talking to him all the time. There were

a lot of birdies coming up and chirping right next to me and I was like, 'Hey, hey, Dad, how are you?' It was kind of surreal."

Goosen also had a 66, and Stricker shot 67.

"The playoff was exciting stuff," Goosen said. "It was good to be in that sort of fight again. It's been a while since I've been in that kind of position and it's nice to finally get in that position. Now we can grow on that and I'm looking forward to the U.S. (Senior) Open next week."

Stricker was eliminated with a bogey on the first extra hole. He missed an 8-foot birdie putt on the par-4 18th in regulation. □



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Reavie holds off Bradley, Sucher for first win in 11 years

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP) — Chez Reavie is a PGA Tour winner again after 11 years and 250 events.

Reavie won the Travelers Championship on Sunday, closing with a 1-under 69 for a four-stroke victory over Keegan Bradley and Zack Sucher.

The 37-year-old Reavie, whose first title came as a rookie at the 2008 Canadian Open, finished at 17-under 263 at TPC River Highlands a week after tying for third in the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

"It means everything," he said. "I went through some injuries, had some long years there in the middle. But it was great, because it gave good perseverance and good perspective of what life is and what golf is." The former Arizona State player took a six-stroke lead over Bradley and Sucher into the round after a shooting a 63 on Saturday. He had an understated celebration, pulling his ball out of the hole at 18 and saluting the crowd with it clenched in his fist. It was the same calm he showed throughout the day, even as, Bradley, a New England native from nearby Vermont, chipped away to the cheers of the large galleries.

Bradley made back-to-back birdies on 10 and 11 to get within three shots, just missed a 13-foot birdie putt on the 12th, then made a 9-footer on 13 to get within two strokes. His 22 foot-birdie attempt at 14 stopped just at the hole.

He got within a stroke on the par-4 15th when he made a 7 1/2-foot birdie putt after Reavie missed an 11-footer.

"The crowd was just so behind me and so loud and so, it felt like a Ryder Cup



Chez Reavie, winner of the Travelers Championship golf tournament poses with the trophy, Sunday, June 23, 2019, in Cromwell, Conn.

Associated Press

to me," Bradley said. "Man, I've dreamt of this ever since I've come here at 10 years old. It lived up to the hype — it was awesome." But Reavie put the tournament away on the par-4 17th, making a 14-foot birdie putt, while Bradley three-putted for a double bogey. Bradley and Sucher each shot 67, with Sucher playing the back nine in 5-under 30. Sucher, coming of an injury that kept him away from golf for 13 months after the

2017 Travelers, had his best ever finish in a PGA Tour event.

"The back nine was unbelievable," Sucher said. "I mean the whole thing was unbelievable with the huge crowds, it was quite an experience."

He came into his fourth of six medical extension start needing to earn 347 FedEx Cup points to retain his Tour card. He came in with 25 points and picked up 245 with the second-place tie.

"It's amazing, it's life-changing to be honest," Sucher said. "It changes the rest of our year, it changes our plans and we have a lot of work to do to figure what else we have to do now."

Vaughn Taylor, who started nine strokes back, made a run of five birdies to finish his final-round of 65, shooting a 29 on the back nine. His 15-foot birdie putt on 18 put him at 12 under.

"I've never birdied the last five holes of a tournament

that's for sure," Taylor said. Paul Casey, who blew a four-stroke lead during last year's final round, started the day 10 strokes behind Reavie, his former college teammate. But he hit his tee shot on the par-4 15th inside 7 feet and made eagle, then finished with a birdie to go 11 under.

The Englishman said he was hoping to match the 28 Reavie put up on the back nine Saturday to put some pressure on him. But he couldn't do it and spent the rest of the day rooting for his friend.

Reavie, who took home just under \$1.3 million, has finished in the top 20 in five of his last six starts.

Defending champion Bubba Watson, who was hoping for a fourth title in Connecticut, shot a 71 to finish at 1 under, but said he wasn't disappointed with his week.

"I know sometimes I look like I'm angry out there," he said. "But most of the time, I'm pretty happy."

Brooks Koepka made quick work of his final round, also shooting a 71 to finish the tournament at an even par. He and Russell Knox needed just under three hours to play their 18 holes in the first group of the day. Koepka says he has a couple of appearances in the next two days and then will get some much-needed rest.

"I'm not going to practice and take some time away from the game and just try to realize what's going on," he said. "'I don't think I'm still over Bethpage, and with these majors they are so tightly bunched, it's difficult. I didn't really have a chance to soak that one in and then we are playing again, it's just a continuation that keeps rolling on.' □



Andy Murray of Britain, left, celebrates with Feliciano Lopez of Spain after winning their men's doubles final tennis match against Joe Salisbury of Britain and the Rajeev Ram of the United States at the Queens Club tennis tournament in London, Sunday June 23, 2019.

Associated Press



Los Angeles Dodgers' Chris Taylor, right, hits a three-run home run as Colorado Rockies catcher Tony Wolters, left, watches along with home plate umpire Paul Emmel, center, during the seventh inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 23, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Murray completes fairytale return, Lopez claims 2 titles

LONDON (AP) — Andy Murray completed a fairytale return from hip surgery by winning the Queen's Club doubles title with Feliciano Lopez, who ended Sunday with two titles after earlier winning the singles title as well.

The Spaniard is the first man to win both titles at the grass-court tournament in London since Mark Philippoussis in 1997.

Murray spent five months away from the sport until this week. He and Lopez defeated Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury 7-6 (6), 5-7, 10-5 in the doubles final — not long after Lopez outlasted Gilles Simon 6-2, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2) in the singles.

Murray capped a remarkable week 146 days after undergoing what he hopes was career-saving hip surgery. In January he had said he was planning to retire after Wimbledon because of the severe pain he felt on a daily basis.

The three-time Grand Slam champion is approaching

Wimbledon, which starts July 1, full of confidence after playing freely and without pain as he secured his first doubles title since winning with his brother Jamie Murray in Tokyo in 2011. Murray won't play singles at Wimbledon but has already confirmed that Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert will partner him in the men's doubles.

Murray and Lopez hadn't played together in a tournament before beating top-seeded Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah on Thursday. They completed their darkness-delayed quarterfinal win over British duo Daniel Evans and Ken Skupski on Saturday, right before their semifinal win over Henri Kontinen and John Peers.

Lopez, who had been forced to play in three matches on Saturday including his singles semifinal, played almost 5 hours of tennis altogether on Sunday. He reaffirmed his status as the tournament's old-

est winner at age 37 with the singles title.

The veteran Spaniard was already its oldest winner when he took the title in 2017. Lopez was playing his first final since defeating Marin Cilic in the decider two years ago and was made to work hard by the 34-year-old Simon.

Lopez saved all but one of the break points he faced and converted three of his 13 opportunities to prevail in 2 hours, 49 minutes. Lopez had won five of their previous seven meetings and all four on grass.

Lopez is the first wild card to claim the title since Pete Sampras defeated Tim Henman to win in 1999. He would have been the oldest player to win a tour-level title since the 43-year-old Ken Rosewall won the Hong Kong Grand Prix final in 1977, but Roger Federer beat him to that accolade after winning his 10th Halle Open title earlier Sunday. Federer is a month older than Lopez. □

Continued from Page 18

Kenley Jansen (3-2) pitched one inning.

The Dodgers, with the best record in the majors, swept the three-game series and finished a 9-2 homestand. In first inning, Dodgers star Cody Bellinger hit a foul ball that struck a young woman in the head. She was taken to a hospital for precautionary tests.

The woman was sitting four rows from the field down the first base line, just beyond protective netting that extends to the end of the visiting dugout. Bellinger checked on her between innings — she at first stayed in her seat and was given an ice pack, but left about 15 minutes later for further attention.

A woman died last August after being struck in the head by a foul ball at Dodger Stadium. All 30 major league stadiums expanded protective netting to at least the far ends of the dugouts at the start of the 2018 season after several fans were injured by foul balls two years ago.

Fan safety has received further scrutiny after fans were hit by fouls in the last month at Houston and at a Chicago White Sox game — the White Sox and Nationals recently announced that they will extend their netting to the foul poles.

In the ninth inning, a female fan ran toward Bellinger in right field. He was trying to

fend her off, and security personnel tackled her as she tried hug Bellinger.

The Dodgers managed just three hits off Rockies starter Antonio Senzatela before breaking through in the seventh. Pinch-hitter Chris Taylor greeted reliever Chad Bettis with a three-run homer for a 3-2 lead. Colorado tied it in the eighth when Daniel Murphy scored from first on Tony Wolters' double into the right-field corner. It appeared as if the play at the plate was going to be close, but Martin was not able to cleanly catch Bellinger's throw.

Dahl hit a solo homer off Dodgers starter Kenta Maeda.

ROCKIES MOVE

Colorado optioned pitcher Jeff Hoffman to Triple-A Albuquerque to make room for OF Garrett Hampson. Hampson played center field and batted second, going 2 for 5.

TRAINER'S ROOM

UP NEXT

Colorado: RHP Jon Gray (7-5, 4.18 ERA) gets the call Monday for the start of a three-game series in San Francisco. Gray leads the team with eight quality starts.

Dodgers: LHP Clayton Kershaw (7-1, 2.85 ERA) starts the first of a three-game set Monday at Arizona. Kershaw is 16-9 in 31 career starts vs. the Diamondbacks. □

Rebooting World Cup of Hockey to be part of NHL labor talks

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — With labor talks having already begun on an informal basis, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and union chief Don Fehr are in favor of rebooting the World Cup of Hockey tournament and holding it every four years.

The stumbling block to laying out a long-term calendar of international competition, however, revolves around the hot-button topic of the NHL competing at the Winter Olympics after skipping out on South Korea last year.

"One of the things I hope we will have is an agreement to establish the long-term schedule for international events which would include World Cups of Hockey," said Fehr, stressing the plural "Cups" during an interview with The Associated Press at the league's draft festivities in Vancouver, British Columbia, this past weekend. "That's a stand-alone event. It should not be seen as competing with or replacing the Olympics. It can be done."

Bettman is on board when it comes to the World Cup. "We think that's a great event and it's something we've been trying to work out for more than two years," he said. "We're all in favor of setting an international calendar, and it takes two to tango, so to speak."

There's a caveat, of course, and the reason why the two sides aren't tangoing just yet.

"We think the World Cup of Hockey can be a wonder-

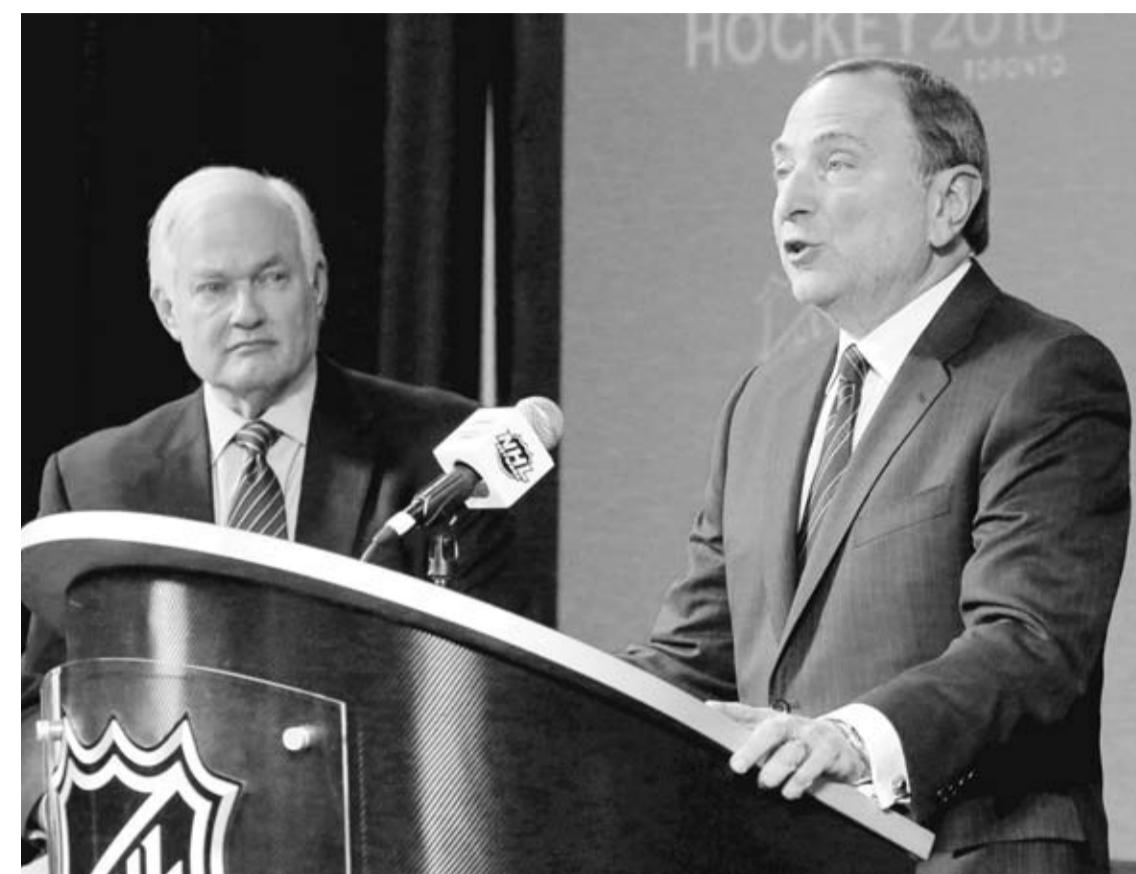
ful event, particularly if we don't go to the Olympics," Bettman said.

Though resolving a way to reduce the percentage of players' salaries being held back annually in an escrow fund is the NHL Players' Association's most pressing concern with the collective bargaining agreement, international competition is also on the list.

And that's where the World Cup — revived in 2016 — and Olympic Games participation will play a role once formal negotiations begin this summer leading up to September deadlines in which either side can choose to opt out and terminate the current CBA by the fall of 2020. The owners have until Sept. 1 and players on Sept. 15 to reach their decisions and set the clock ticking toward another potential work stoppage.

"There have been a series of discussions. I don't think I would call them formal negotiations yet," Fehr said. "And if your next question's going to be how it's going to end up, I'm going to tell you, ask me in the middle of August because I don't know yet."

Players are unhappy with the league's decision to skip the most recent Winter Games after having participated in the previous five. Shutting down the regular season for two weeks is an issue for owners, as was the time difference regarding South Korea, with games being played in the early morning for North American audiences.



In this Jan. 24, 2015, file photo, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, right, and NHL Player's Association Executive Director Donald Fehr take part in announcing the return of the World Cup of Hockey in 2016 in Toronto, during a news conference at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

The union sides with the league involving other issues regarding Olympic participation such as players' medical insurance coverage and marketing rights.

None of those apply when it comes to the World Cup because it's jointly controlled by the league and union, with both sides splitting the revenue.

The World Cup's return was greeted with a tremendous amount of fanfare when Bettman and Fehr shared the podium at the 2015 all-star game festivities in Columbus, Ohio, to announce the eight-team event would be held in Toronto

the following year. There was even discussion — but no resolution — of having it held every four years. The World Cup was previously played in 1996 and 2004, and succeeded the Canada Cup, which was held five times from 1976-91.

Speaking only for himself and not the union, Fehr said he would prefer the NHL compete at the Olympics and then have the World Cup held every four years — with two years separating the events.

"If it was up to me, I'd do it all sooner rather than later, but we'll see," Fehr said. "The question is, can we get

the agreement on all the intervening pieces."

Fehr noted the union and NHL can't resolve the Olympic participation question alone in labor talks because outstanding issues must also be negotiated with the International Ice Hockey Federation and International Olympic Committee.

Bettman doesn't see why the two sides can't reach a deal on the World Cup, given they're both in favor.

"Yes, so it should get done," Bettman said. "We're going to ultimately come together and figure out something that everybody's comfortable with." □

Bernal lifts injury-hit Team INEOS with Tour de Suisse title

ULRICHEN, Switzerland (AP) — In a rough month for Team INEOS, Egan Bernal lifted the British squad with overall victory Sunday in the nine-day Tour de Suisse. Bernal came to Switzerland to support team leader Geraint Thomas, the 2018 Tour de France champion, who crashed out in a nasty fall on Tuesday.

Thomas' accident followed teammate and four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome suffering season-ending injuries in a training crash in France.

Bernal is still slated to start the Tour de France on July 6 as Thomas' top aide, though this confirmed race-winning potential after his Paris-Nice title in March.

The 22-year-old Colombian finished 19 seconds ahead of Rohan Dennis overall after they finished Sunday's stage together, 1 minute, 2 seconds behind Hugh Carthy's solo breakaway on snow-lined roads.

Bernal was 3:04 clear overall of third-place Patrick Konrad.

□



Egan Bernal from Colombia of Team Ineos lifts the trophy after winning the Tour de Suisse at the ninth and final stage, a 101.5 km race with start and finish in Goms, Switzerland, at the 83rd Tour de Suisse UCI ProTour cycling race, on Sunday, June 23, 2019.

Associated Press

U.S. Census Bureau using aerial tech to help with 2020 count

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— The U.S. Census Bureau is using new high-tech tools to help get an accurate population count next year as it faces challenges tallying people of color who live in remote places and can be wary of the federal government.

The agency is using aerial images of rural communities and hard-to-reach areas to verify addresses and determine where to send workers to ensure everyone is counted, Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham said.

Satellites and planes take photos, and bureau employees compare the housing captured in the images to digital maps from the last census, in 2010. It takes a fraction of the time needed by workers in the field.

The agency has used geographic technology since 1990 but has never had access to such accurate tools from the air, said Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, head of the bureau's geography division.

That technology — known as geographic information system, or GIS — uses computers to analyze neighborhoods, land formations, rivers and other data captured by satellites or traditional mapping.

The new technology to improve the census comes amid concerns that tribal areas and communities of color may be undercounted in the every-10-year tally that determines the amount of federal money states receive and whether they gain or lose U.S. congressional seats.

The U.S. Supreme Court is deciding whether the Trump administration can add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, which opponents say would suppress the count of immigrants who fear revealing their status to federal officials.

The Census Bureau also is facing criticism for planning internet and telephone questionnaires, which advocates say would be more likely to overlook rural areas without reliable communica-



In this May 25, 2018 photo, Jose Espinoza, 18, stands outside his trailer with his 4-month-old infant, Emily, and wife, Maria Rodriguez, 19, in Vado, N.M. while speaking about making only \$50 a day picking onions.

Associated Press

cation infrastructure.

Steven Romalewski, director of the City University of New York's Mapping Service, said the criticism is fair but credited the Census Bureau for using its geographic and aerial technology to gather needed data about the most difficult populations to count. "The technology alone is no guarantee that you will have an accurate count," said Romalewski, who is mapping "hard to count" communities ahead of the census. "But if you leverage data with satellite imagery, you have the best information before you."

That's what census employees intend to do while avoiding the political battles, Dillingham said.

"The culture of the census dictates us to be impartial," the bureau director said

during a recent trip to New Mexico, which has one of the most difficult populations to accurately count. The state has a sizable Native American population and the highest percentage of Hispanic residents in the nation. Bishop said the technology will especially help such areas that have struggled for accurate counts.

Another is Mississippi's majority-black Bolivar County, where only 59.7% of households mailed back their 2010 census questionnaire, according to CUNY's Center for Urban Research.

The national rate was 74% in 2010, according to a Census Bureau news release.

The bureau began using the new imagery technology in 2013, Bishop said. Employees have been dou-

ble- and triple-checking satellite images and those captured by the Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Imagery Program during the growing seasons in the continental U.S.

Around 100 technicians are able to examine the entire nation with satellite and aerial images while sitting at their computers. They are assigned specific neighborhood blocks and look for growth and decline in the number of residential buildings by comparing images from 2009 to the present.

Two hours of canvassing in the field during the 2010 census now takes less than two minutes in the office, the bureau said.

"With that information, we can then decide to use our staff more efficiently" to

knock on doors of homes that did not respond to online or phone questionnaires, Bishop said.

The bureau gave a demonstration of the new technology at conference early this year. Employees showed how they could analyze county subdivisions on maps by looking up a certain percentage of Spanish speakers or those making a certain amount of money.

The specific addresses pinpointed by the aerial imagery are largely kept private, but can be shared with some tribal and city governments to help create boundaries and zoning areas, Bishop said. After a certain period, the information has to be destroyed, she said.

The head of the Census Bureau came to New Mexico last month for a first-hand look at the struggle to count people who live in far-flung places where the new technology could help.

Dillingham and a group from the Navajo Nation ventured along a winding dirt road through mesas and small canyons to the home of Daniel Piaso, about 12 miles (19 kilometers) west of To'Hajiilee, New Mexico.

Dillingham tried to ask Piaso, who speaks only Navajo, about the dwellings on his property. A confused Piaso responded with help from an interpreter.

Arbin Mitchell, a tribal partnership specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau, said elders like Piaso are most at risk of missing out.

"They do not trust strangers who might approach them asking questions about the census," Mitchell said.

U.S. Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall, both New Mexico Democrats, wanted Dillingham to see the challenges of counting rural and poor populations with little to no internet access.

"We have a lot of concerns, so we are doubling down to get the message out to people about how important the census is," Heinrich said. □

A retail rainbow: Vendors mark LGBTQ Pride on sales racks

NEW YORK (AP) — Major retailers have diversified their inventory for Pride month, selling apparel and other goods that celebrate LGBTQ culture to mark the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

In New York City, Macy's flagship store is adorned with rainbow-colored Pride tribute windows, set in the same space as its famous Christmas displays. Times Square's digital billboards are splashed with pitches for Pride-linked clothing and cosmetics sold at Sephora, CoverGirl and Levi's stores nearby.

But this year, the truly game-changing Pride sales scene is not in cutting-edge New York.

In 25 years working for organizations devoted to LGBTQ causes, "this is absolutely the first year that I have noticed the retail celebration of Pride moving from larger coastal cities to smaller towns and cities," said Stephen Macias, the Los Angeles-based head of the Diversity & Inclusion department at the MWWPR global publicity firm.

He was taken aback by what he saw visiting his childhood hometown, Fresno, California, in an agricultural part of the state politically distant from liberal Los Angeles and San Francisco.



In this Thursday, June 20, 2019, photo, a customer takes a break from shopping at the Pride and Joy shop in the Macy's flagship store in New York.

Associated Press

"When I went home to Fresno, where I was bullied at the mall as an effeminate kid, I was looking at so many stores with rainbow flags, Pride displays and same-sex families set up in the windows," Macias said. "I was shocked that in Middle America, we were being celebrated. It was no problem, with each store trying to outdo the others." In Oklahoma City, the locally owned Red Coyote Running and Fitness displayed shoes with rainbow Pride flags planted in them.

On Saturday, it sponsored an inaugural "Love Run" race, complete with rainbow medals.

The retail push in large part is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, days of protests touched off by a police raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969.

It took decades, but American businesses in recent years have introduced more LGBTQ-themed items, no longer considering them anathema to mass marketing. The LGBTQ presence in retail has never been as visibly mainstream as in 2019.

"A dozen years ago, the conventional wisdom among retailers was that reaching out to the LGBTQ community means losing to the rest of consumers," Macias said. "But the retail landscape turned out to be different; the fear of backlash by supporting LGBTQ consumers never materialized in any meaningful way."

Not everyone praises the Pride merchandising, which some see as thinly disguised corporate promotion.

"Major corporations have turned LGBT struggles into marketing moments to make themselves look good," said Bill Dobbs, a longtime New York gay ac-

tivist. "The modern movement for gay rights was jump-started by Stonewall, and it's still a battle for the lives of LGBT people — not about selling trinkets and clothes with rainbow colors. They're a distraction."

Some companies participating in Pride campaigns have also been criticized for having their apparel made in countries where being gay is illegal, or where persecution is commonplace.

"Some people in these corporations may have good intentions, but it's just a marketing tactic," said Terry Roethlein, a volunteer with the Reclaim Pride Coalition, which opposes major corporate sponsorship of New York's LGBTQ events.

"So many things that we sell in this country are produced in all kinds of deplorable conditions abroad," Roethlein said. "And that's just another problem with retailing pride products — part of the unscrupulous nature of these marketing efforts. We want queer liberation, not rainbow capitalism."

Many companies with Pride-branded apparel lines are also making donations to LGBTQ organizations or are giving a percentage of their sales.

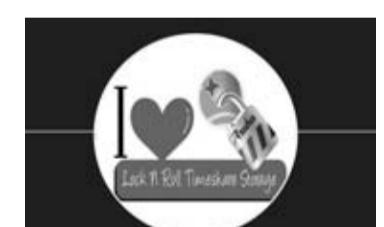
H&M is putting 10% of the sales from its "Love for All" collection to the United

Nations campaign against the criminalization of LGBTQ people. UGG footware is donating 25% of its proceeds from sales of "Yeah Pride" slippers this month to benefit Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation.

Target, which is selling family-themed Pride merchandise, including toddler T-shirts that read "Love my Dads" and "Love my Moms," is donating \$100,000 to GLSEN, an organization focused on ensuring safe schools for LGBTQ students. Profits from American Apparel's Stonewall-themed T-shirts are going to an initiative that provides cosmetics to low-income transgender women of color.

Macy's sponsored dozens of Pride parades across the country this year, with employees marching in them. It is encouraging shoppers to make donations at the register to The Trevor Project, a youth suicide prevention and crisis service. It is also donating \$4 to The Trevor Project for every Pride-branded INC brand shirt it sells, or \$2 for every set of INC socks.

"The giving campaign, with proceeds from the pride collection, is fundamental for an organization supporting diversity and inclusion," said Abigail James, a Macy's senior vice president. "That's a core value for us, it's something that is a part of who we are in a world that has changed and evolved." □



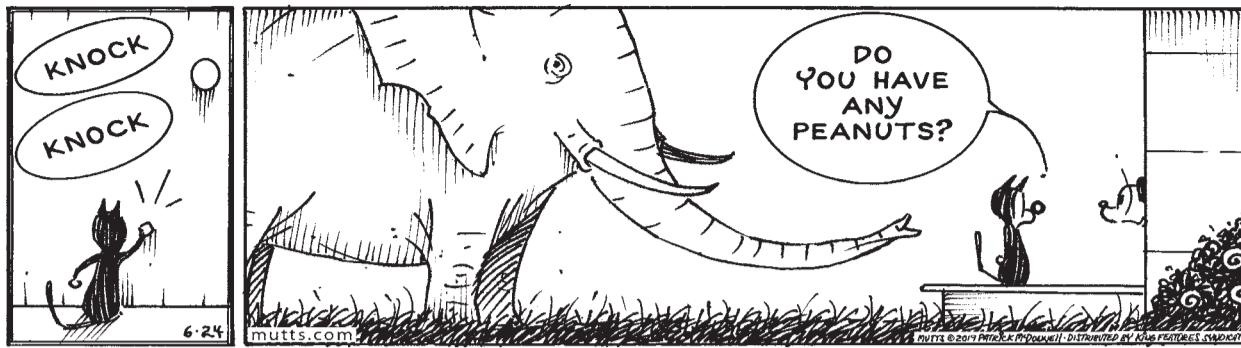
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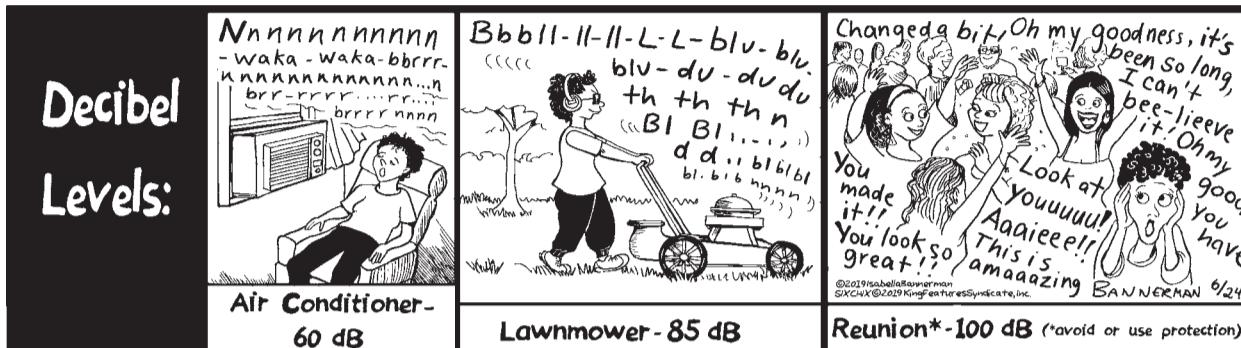
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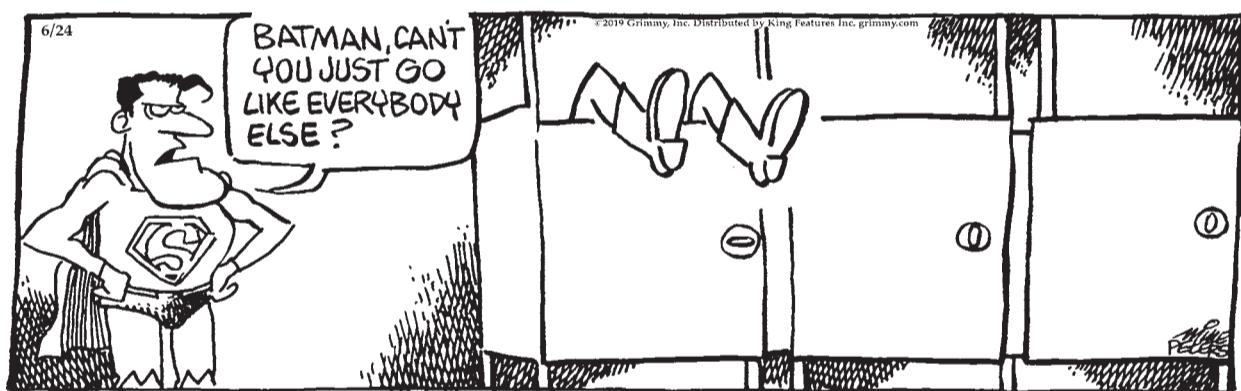
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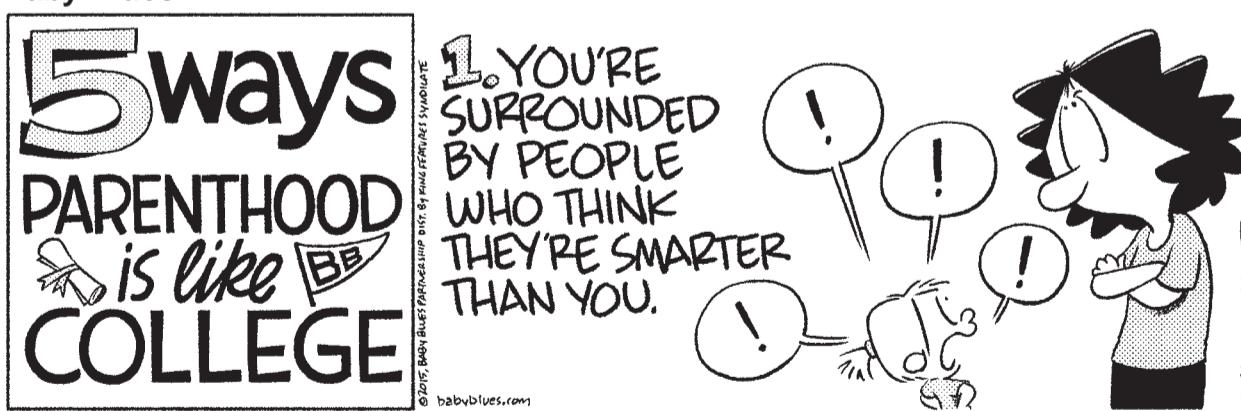
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★

6/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	1	8	5	3	9	4	2	7
5	4	7	1	6	2	3	8	9
9	3	2	8	7	4	6	1	5
1	2	6	7	4	8	9	5	3
7	5	4	2	9	3	1	6	8
3	8	9	6	5	1	2	7	4
4	7	5	3	1	6	8	9	2
2	6	3	9	8	5	7	4	1
8	9	1	4	2	7	5	3	6

ACROSS

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares and blacked-out areas. The grid is 12 columns wide and 15 rows high. Numbered squares include 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, and 65. The grid contains several blacked-out areas, likely representing solved words or specific patterns. The text on the left side of the grid is: 'SS' (row 1), 'in poetry' (row 2), '6' (row 3), 'or more' (row 4), 'tly' (row 5), 'as a' (row 6), 'tter' (row 7), 'competitor' (row 8), 'and trip' (row 9), 'a' (row 10), 'oughly' (row 11), 'sts' (row 12), 'e 12' (row 13), 'oms' (row 14), 'are on' (row 15), and 'ers' (row 16).

Sectio 27. 1. 11.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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55 Showed back	28 Witch's spells	All rights reserved.	
60 Perched ___; atop	29 Slaughtered	39 Caramel-topped	50 Common
61 Helpful hint	30 Mouthwatering	custard	metal
62 Irritated	31 Smooth & shiny	41 Farm buildings	53 Title
63 "Phooey!"	33 Not bananas	42 Fight souvenir	54 Track numbers
64 Benevolent	34 1/3 and 2/3	44 Furious	56 Late ring king
65 Kennedy & Koppel	36 Geography book charts	45 Noticed	57 Convent dweller
DOWN	38 Item in a makeup kit	47 Asked	
1 Book jacket part		48 Idaho export	59 In just a ___; very soon
		49 Family member	

H&M's new diversity chief designs a more inclusive future

NEW YORK (AP) — H&M is set to kick off a series of workshops and training this fall for thousands of its employees at its more than 500 North American stores aimed at addressing unconscious bias.

The moves are the first of their kind for the fast-fashion chain and come after it faced international backlash early last year when a black child model wearing a "monkey in the jungle" T-shirt was featured on its website in United Kingdom.

Since the uproar, H&M has hired Nigerian-born Ezinne Kwubiri, the first to hold the position as H&M head of inclusion and diversity for North America, its largest market. Kwubiri, a former Viacom executive who joined last October, reports directly to H&M's new North American president, Martino Pessina. She works with Annie Wu, who is based at the company headquarters in Stockholm and was named global head of diversity and inclusiveness of H&M early last year. Kwubiri is developing a comprehensive inclusion, diversity and cultural plan that includes training for all 17,000 U.S. workers, including new employees during their orientation. Training has already been completed for the management, regional and district teams. H&M has turned to consulting



In this June 4, 2019, photo Ezinne Kwubiri, H&M's Head of Diversity and Inclusion, North America, is interviewed in their New York headquarters.

Associated Press

firms like Accenture to help develop the workshops. The moves come as other companies including Gucci and Prada are pledging to combat racism in the fashion business after a series of missteps.

Kwubiri recently spoke with The Associated Press about her new role at H&M and the challenges for the fashion giant, which has more than 4,000 stores globally. The conversation has been edited for clarity and length.

Q. What are the biggest challenges with this job?

A. We are represented in 71 markets so there is a lot of moving pieces that comes with it. Just thinking about how we are providing benefits to our staff... how we're engaging with them and also how we're being represented in the communities. □

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Oceanview \$15k
3BEDROOM \$26k
*WK. 51 GV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

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Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Phone Directory	Tel. 118

Restaurants could be 1st to get genetically modified salmon

By CANDICE CHOI

NEW YORK (AP) — Inside an Indiana aquafarming complex, thousands of salmon eggs genetically modified to grow faster than normal are hatching into tiny fish. After growing to roughly 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) in indoor tanks, they could be served in restaurants by late next year.

The salmon produced by AquaBounty are the first genetically modified animals approved for human consumption in the U.S. They represent one way companies are pushing to transform the plants and animals we eat, even as consumer advocacy groups call for greater caution.

AquaBounty hasn't sold any fish in the U.S. yet, but it says its salmon may first turn up in places like restaurants or university cafeterias, which would decide whether to tell diners that the fish are genetically modified.

"It's their customer, not ours," said Sylvia Wulf, AquaBounty's CEO.

To produce its fish, AquaBounty injected Atlantic salmon with DNA from other fish species that make them grow to full size in about 18 months, which could be about twice as fast as regular salmon. The company says that's more efficient since less feed is required. The eggs were shipped to the U.S. from the company's Canadian location last month after clearing final regulatory hurdles.



Peter Bowyer, the facility manager at AquaBounty Technologies, holds one of the last batch of conventional Atlantic salmon raised at the commercial fish farm in Albany, Ind., Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

Associated Press

As AquaBounty worked through years of government approvals, several grocers including Kroger and Whole Foods responded to a campaign by consumer groups with a vow to not sell the fish.

Already, most corn and soy in the U.S. is genetically modified to be more resistant to pests and herbicides. But as genetically modified salmon make their way to dinner plates, the pace of change to the food supply could accelerate.

This month, President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to simplify regulations for genetically

engineered plants and animals. The move comes as companies are turning to a newer gene-editing technology that makes it easier to tinker with plant and animal DNA.

That's blurring the lines around what should be considered a genetically modified organism, and how such foods are perceived. In 2015, an Associated Press-GfK poll found two-thirds of Americans supported labeling of genetically modified ingredients on food packages. The following year, Congress directed regulators to establish national standards for disclosing the presence of bioengineered foods.

But foods made with the newer gene-editing technique wouldn't necessarily be subject to the regulation, since companies say the resulting plants and animals could theoretically be produced with conventional breeding. And while AquaBounty's salmon was produced with an older technique, it may not always be obvious when people are buying the fish either.

The disclosure regulation will start being implemented next year, but mandatory compliance doesn't start until 2022. And under the rules, companies can provide the disclosures through codes people

scan with their phones. The disclosure also would note that products have "bio-engineered" ingredients, which advocacy groups say could be confusing.

"Nobody uses that term," said Amy van Saun of the Center for Food Safety, who noted "genetically engineered" or "genetically modified" are more common.

The center is suing over the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty's salmon, and it is among the groups that asked grocers to pledge they wouldn't sell the fish.

The disclosure rules also do not apply to restaurants and similar food service establishments. Greg Jaffe of the Center for Science in the Public Interest noted that AquaBounty's fish will represent a tiny fraction of the U.S. salmon supply, and that many people may not care whether they're eating genetically modified food. Still, he said restaurants could make the information available to customers who ask about it.

"The information should not be hidden," Jaffe said.

AquaBounty's Wulf noted its salmon has already been sold in Canada, where disclosure is not required. She said the company believes in transparency but questioned why people would want to know whether the fish are genetically modified.

"It's identical to Atlantic salmon, with the exception of one gene," she said. □

Scientists predicting record dead zone in Chesapeake Bay

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Some ecologists at the University of Maryland are worried that a large spot of low oxygen in the Chesapeake Bay could harm the state's

seafood industry. News outlets report environmental scientists from Maryland and University of Michigan say they're predicting a 2-mile (3-kilometer) swath of low-to-no oxygen in the bay, making it one of the largest so-called "dead zones" in nearly 20 years.

This particularly damaging dead zone is thought to

be caused by heavy rains the region experienced this year, which washed wastewater and agricultural runoff into the bay. The wastewater then produces oxygen-stealing algae.

The dead zones are especially harmful to key Maryland exports like crabs and oysters, even though other scientists say some smaller marine creatures can withstand the oxygen void. □

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District 12 of 'The Hunger Games' is now a historic place

By MARTHA WAGGONER
RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — What would the folks in the Capitol think? District 12 is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Henry River Mill Village, which served as the home of the three main characters from the original "The Hunger Games," was named a historic place last month and announced by state officials earlier this week. It's a designation that the new owners sought for the 72-acre (29-hectare) property because they "wanted to be the ones who got this property the recognition it deserves," said Calvin Reyes, who bought the village in 2017 with his mother and stepfather.

When "The Hunger Games" was filmed in North Carolina in 2011, the mill village served as the home of Katniss, Peeta and Gale. But when Reyes talks about the proper recognition, he's not referring merely to the filming of a box office smash. "People come for 'The Hunger Games,' but they stay for the history," Reyes said in a phone interview Thursday.

That history began about 1905 when the Henry River Manufacturing Co. established the mill in Hildebran in western North Carolina, about 70 miles (112 km) east of Asheville. The mill, which closed in 1970, burned down in 1977. It now includes a two-story company store and about 20 wood-frame textile workers' homes.

The historic places nomination form says "the abandoned site took on the appearance of a ghost town" in the two decades after the mill burned, with 14 houses lost to decay and the boarding house demolished.

Despite the decay, the mill village "is a distinguished collection of unaltered mill housing in a planned rural village associated with North Carolina's important textile industry in the early twentieth century," the form says.

Reyes and his family were looking for property where

they could build homes for their extended family when they found the mill village. The front door of the brick building that once was the company store and served as Mellark Bakery in the movie was screwed shut with a piece of plywood, and the inside looked like an episode of "Hoarders," Reyes said.

Still, the three of them were charmed. They toured the property one afternoon and had it under contract the next day, paying \$360,000 — a bargain considering the previous owner once was asking \$1.4 million. That owner, Wade Shepherd, died in 2015, two years before the village sold.

"We knew from the beginning that we wanted to save these houses," Reyes said. "We're not preservationists or developers. But it spoke to us, and it was something we wanted to do."

Shepherd had complained about visitors and vandals even before "The Hunger Games" opened. Now the property is protected by cameras, lights and tours that take place five days a week. In addition, a "Hunger Games" tour group brings visitors on weekends. Since some people believe the property is haunted, paranormal tours also are available.

The National Park Service manages the historic places register, which doesn't limit what an owner can do with their property. However, the designation may make property owners eligible for preservation funds and federal historic tax credits.

Author Suzanne Collins announced earlier this week that she's releasing a prequel to her trilogy about a post-apocalyptic world. It's set for release next year. That can only fuel interest in all things about Panem. Reyes and the Namours plan to eventually restore the property, starting with a museum and gift shop, then maybe a house or two renovated for overnight stays. They hope to open a restaurant as well. □



This undated photo made available by Calvin Reyes, shows buildings in an abandoned mill village near Asheville, NC., that was used in the first "Hunger Games" movie.

Associated Press

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Sunday at 8:00pm
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'Toy Story 4' opens big but below expectations with \$118M

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Toy Story 4" brought the box office to life with a \$118 million opening weekend after a three-week slump of underperforming sequels, but the Pixar film's below-expectations debut didn't assuage continuing concerns about a rocky summer movie season.

The "Toy Story 4" opening, according to studio esti-

mates Sunday, ranks as the fourth highest animated film opening ever, not accounting for inflation. Above it are 2018's "Incredibles 2" (\$182 million), 2016's "Finding Dory" (\$135 million), and 2007's "Shrek the Third" (\$121 million). It's the year's third largest debut, trailing only a pair of other Disney releases: "Avengers: Endgame" and "Captain

But heading into the week-



This undated image provided by Disney/Pixar shows a scene from the movie "Toy Story 4." Associated Press

of making sure that this is a story people want told, the end result speaks for itself." The overall marketplace didn't give "Toy Story 4" much momentum. Last week's top film, Sony Pictures' poorly reviewed "Men in Black International" slid 64 percent, slipping to fourth place with \$10.8 million.

The No. 2 film, Orion Pictures' horror remake "Child's Play" — cheekily positioned as the weekend's R-rated toy movie — also opened below expectations with \$14.1 million. A remake of the 1988 original, the film stars Aubrey Plaza with Mark Hamill voicing the knife-wielding doll Chucky. Luc Besson's assassin thriller "Anna" missed out on the top 10 entirely, opening with a mere \$3.5 million in 2,114 theaters. Lionsgate, which bought U.S. distribution rights in 2017, did little to promote the film in advance of its release. In 2018, Besson was accused of a rape by the actress Sand Van Roy. A lawyer for Besson denied the accusation and French authorities dropped the investigation in February citing a lack of evidence. Eight other women also accused Besson of rape.

son of sexual misconduct in a French publication. In a summer season that's running 6.5% off the pace of last year, according to Comscore, many had positioned "Toy Story 4" as a surefire savior, due in part to the enviable track record of Disney and Pixar (Disney's "Aladdin" remake this weekend passed \$800 million worldwide.) Instead, the weekend was down

27.2% from the same frame last year. Overwhelming the industry's market leader, Disney was thought immune to any sequel downturn.

But most other studios would love to have a film underperform to \$118 million, with an expectation of long-term playability. Outside Sony's upcoming "Spider-Man: Homecoming," "Toy Story 4" has no family-friendly competition until Disney's own "Lion King" remake opens July 19.

"The numbers being bandied about out there pre-weekend were certainly much higher than the number that it came in with," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "But if we bring it down to earth and put some perspective on this, it was still a franchise-high debut. It was a global opening of \$238 million."

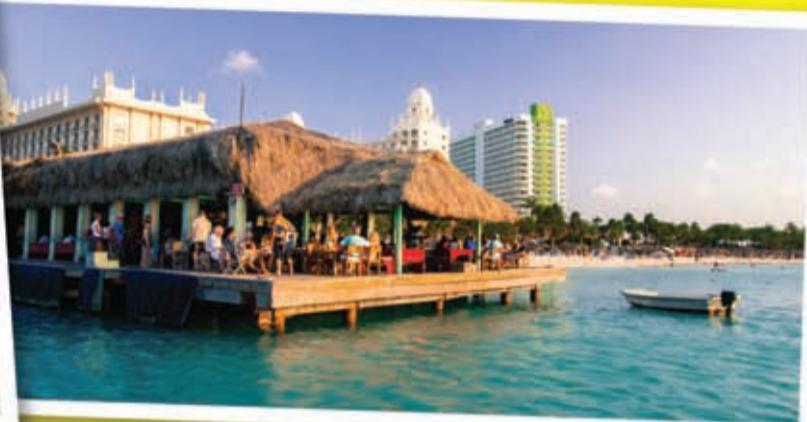
But with underwhelming returns for even critically acclaimed comedies like "Booksmart" and seemingly surefire bets like "The Secret Life of Pets 2," little has gone according to plan in Hollywood's primetime season.

"The summer has been a real head-scratcher," said Dergarabedian.

In limited release, Neon's "Wild Rose," about a Scottish single mother (Jessie Buckley) who dreams of being a country music star, opened with a per-theater average of \$14,046 in four locations, and Magnolia Pictures' documentary "Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am" debuted with a per-theater average of \$11,000 in four locations. □

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Screenwriters can play key role in gender parity, actors say

By KATIE CAMPIONE

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Academy Award-winning actor Geena Davis says achieving gender parity on screen is simple, and it could happen overnight.

"Just go through (the script) and cross out a bunch of male first names and put female first names. That's all you have to do," Davis told the audience during a panel Saturday at AT&T's SHAPE media conference in the Los Angeles suburb of Burbank.

Davis joined fellow actor Mayim Bialik on stage at the conference to discuss how gender parity in media can create social change. The conversation revolved around the need for diversity on screen to break stereotypes and encourage young people to pursue careers they might otherwise have felt were off limits to them.

"Of course, why wouldn't we need to see people

who are like us to be able to imagine what we could become?" Bialik said.

The panel was born from a study conducted by the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media that found women felt encouraged to pursue scientific, medical and engineering (STEM) careers because of "X-Files" character Dana Scully, an FBI agent and medical doctor. Of the women surveyed in the study, 63 percent of those working in a STEM field said Scully served as a role model for them growing up.

Bialik, who also holds a doctorate in neuroscience and recently wrapped her time playing the role of neuroscientist Amy Farrah Fowler on "The Big Bang Theory," said seeing characters like Scully on screen and having real-life mentors is crucial for young women to pursue careers in science, medicine and engineering. "I was raised in a climate

where if you didn't learn things as fast as the boys, it meant that it wasn't for you," Bialik said. It's important "to have a mentor, to have someone that you can see is living the life of a scientist and also has a social life — all the things that the lone scientist in the laboratory stereotype doesn't give us."

"You're seeing the full, complicated, amazing woman living life as a scientist," Bialik said of characters like Scully and Fowler. "That's what I needed as a young girl that wasn't there for me."

This doesn't just apply for gender, either. The panelists said that all forms of diversity on screen are necessary, pointing to films like "Hidden Figures," which is about the key role a group of African-American women played in the U.S. space program, as leading the way for more complex stories on people of any gender or race.



Geena Davis, second right, and Mayim Bialik, right, speak at the AT&T's SHAPE: "The Scully Effect is Real" panel with Geena Davis and Mayim Bialik on Saturday, June 22, 2019 in Burbank, Calif.

Associated Press

"As much as people think Hollywood is liberal and open-minded and progressive thinking, they're doing a worse job of reflecting society than the abysmal numbers in real life," Davis said. "If we show it, it will happen in real life." □

Michael Jackson's popularity endures, even after new scandal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The documentary "Leaving Neverland" presented a disturbing depiction of Michael Jackson as a child molester, but the initial wave of negative publicity hasn't greatly diminished the King of Pop's image or the enduring popularity of his music.

Many believe Jackson's musical legacy is still going strong as Tuesday's 10th anniversary of his death approaches. Backlash to the documentary that aired in March on HBO and Britain's Channel 4 prompted radio stations in Canada to stop playing his music and the producers of "The Simpsons" to remove an episode that featured Jackson's voice. But that's been the most visible extent of the backlash. There's been no rescinding honors like has happened to Bill Cosby and Harvey Weinstein, or mass movements to stop playing Jackson's music, as R&B singer R. Kelly has faced.

Jackson's massively popular "Thriller" album and the theatrical version of its music video still reside in the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry. His music is still featured in commercials and is a part of a Cirque Du Soleil show in Las Vegas.

Museums in Detroit and Tennessee keep images and artifacts of Jackson on display, and his memorabilia continues to sell. "He still commands prices compared to most any other celebrity," said Darren Julien, president and CEO of the Culver City, California-based Julien's Auctions. He said his auction house has sold around \$15 million of the superstar singer's property including his white glove that went for \$480,000 in 2009 and a jacket, which was recently bought for \$75,000.

Julien said Russia, Asia, Middle East, Canada and America are some of the key markets where buyers are willing to spend money on Jackson's merchandise. "He's the only celebrity where we would have lines of people to get in whenever we had stuff of his to



In this Nov. 7, 2001 file photo, Michael Jackson waves to crowds gathered to see him at his first ever in-store appearance to celebrate his new album "Invincible" in New York.

Associated Press

auction," he continued. "There's only one person that compares to Marilyn Monroe in collectability, and that is Michael Jackson."

Billboard senior editor Gail Mitchell isn't surprised by support for Jackson, who she has met before. For a recent story, the veteran music journalist said she and a colleague interviewed about 30 music executives who believe the singer's legacy could withstand the "Leaving Neverland" controversy.

"Some saw the film, others didn't want to," she said. "Many said that (Jackson) is not here to defend himself the way R. Kelly is here. ... The jury is always probably going to be out. But all of the execs said his legacy will be fine."

Mitchell recently attended Janet Jackson's residency

performance in Las Vegas where the singer played several of her brother's songs that had "people dancing and buzzin'" as the "crowd went wild" during classic songs from The Jackson 5, which she called "one of the highlights of show."

"There was an aura about him," Mitchell said of Jackson. "He had an energy in terms of his talent and the dancing, and I still think that aura still exists to a point. I know it's been tarnished, but I think overall that there is no denying what he brought to the table."

Jackson died at the age of 50 from an overdose of the anesthetic propofol on June 25, 2009. In an instant, Jackson's popularity surged after years of being tarnished by sexual abuse allegations and a 2005 child molestation trial, which

ended with his acquittal. After Jackson's death, the criminal case nearly became an afterthought until "Leaving Neverland" was released.

The documentary focused on two men, Wade Robson and James Safechuck, who denied Jackson abused them while the singer was still alive. Both have said having their own children forced them to face the truth.

Jackson acknowledged befriending numerous children, including some he invited into his bed, but denied he molested any of them.

His estate has also vigorously denied Robson and Safechuck's allegations, calling the documentary a retread of proven falsehoods from men seeking money. A lawsuit was filed against HBO. Despite the documentary,

Jackson's music streaming numbers continued to soar, according to Ian Drew, consumer editorial director at Billboard. He said Jackson's estate has been smart about keeping his music relevant, but it could be diminished over those being "creeped out" by allegations.

Jackson's nephew said his legacy will never be destroyed.

"No lie can destroy what was given to us as a blessing from God, and that's what my uncle was," said Sigmund "Siggy" Jackson, son of Jackson's eldest brother, Jackie Jackson. "You can never destroy his legacy with a petty lie. He will be here. And even after God calls us home, his legacy will live on and never be torn down."

Film producer Jodi Gomes agrees. She believes Jackson's legacy will live on from this generation to the next, no matter what.

Gomes said the family had been working on a documentary on The Jackson 5's 50th anniversary. The contract was ready to be signed with a network, but she said it backed out after "Leaving Neverland."

"The 50th anniversary was planned and the whole family was participating and it was a celebration of what started the whole entire Jackson brand. And now, that has gotten lost in the shuffle," said Gomes, who worked on the 2009 reality series "The Jacksons: A Family Dynasty" and the 1992 miniseries "The Jacksons: An American Dream." Siggy Jackson said his uncle's legacy will continue to win despite the "haters," but understood the logic of some companies not affiliating themselves with anything Michael Jackson.

"That's standard business. You wait until the heat burns down, so you can see after the smoke goes down," he said. "I don't fault anyone from backing off. But as far as the family, it doesn't stop anything. The plans don't stop. My uncle's legacy will never go away. Our family will make sure of that." □